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VENOM
WE'RE BACK!
COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA
HOMECOMING
MARVEL

VENOM

VENOM

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL (#1-6)
WITH **JUANAN RAMÍREZ** (#4) & **IBAN COELLO** (#5)
ARTISTS

VICTOR OLAZABA (#4)
INKER

DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA
WITH **ISRAEL SILVA** & **ANDRES MOSSA** (#5)
COLOR ARTISTS

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
COVER ART

ALLISON STOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

SPECIAL THANKS TO **VICTOR NAVA**

COLLECTION EDITOR **MARK D. BEAZLEY** :: ASSISTANT EDITOR **CAITLIN O'CONNELL**
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR **KATERI WOODY** :: SENIOR EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS **JENNIFER GRÜNWALD**
VP PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS **JEFF YOUNGQUIST** :: SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING **DAVID GABRIEL**
BOOK DESIGNER **JAY BOWEN**

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION **TIM SMITH 3** :: DIGITAL PRODUCTION **KOU CHEN & RACHEL YOUNG**

EDITOR IN CHIEF **AXEL ALONSO** :: CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER **JOE QUESADA**
PRESIDENT **DAN BUCKLEY** :: EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **ALAN FINE**

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MARVEL

#1

NOW

COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA

VENOM

#1

2016

YEARS AGO, THINKING HE WAS DONNING A NEW COSTUME, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH A UNIQUE ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS MAKING HIM ANGRIER AND MORE AGGRESSIVE AND ACTUALLY A LIVING ORGANISM, A MEMBER OF AN ALIEN SPECIES CALLED THE KLYNTAR, HE REJECTED IT, LEAVING THE CREATURE FEELING BETRAYED AND ALONE ON A FOREIGN WORLD.

BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND AS A RESULT CAN NOW GRANT WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ITS FIRST HOST: WALL CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND TURN INVISIBLE.

THE SYMBIOTE HAS HAD MANY HOSTS OVER THE YEARS, SOME NOBLE, SOME NEFARIOUS. AND THOUGH IT HAS BEEN A LETHAL PROTECTOR, A GOVERNMENT AGENT, AND A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY, IT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN...

VENOM

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
ARTIST

GERARDO SANDOVAL
COVER ARTIST

DONO SÀNCHEZ ALMARA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

RICK LEONARDI AND RICHARD ISANOVE; TODD MACFARLANE AND RICHARD ISANOVE; RON LIM AND ANDREW CROSSLEY
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ALLISON STOCK
ASST. EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

ONE THING THIS WORLD HAS TAUGHT ME...

...IT'S HARD TO BE A GOOD GUY.

RENT PAST DUE

FINAL NOTICE

BAD GUYS HAVE IT MUCH EASIER. GIVEN A MEASURE OF POWER, IT'S EASIER TO USE IT SELFISHLY. IT'S *EASIER* TO *TAKE* THAN TO *GIVE*.

I'VE LEARNED IT TAKES *STRENGTH* TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. AND POWER IS *NOT* STRENGTH.

Tony

You still looking for work?

Meet @ diner in an hour.

WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT STRENGTH, I'VE LEARNED, TAKES *HELP*.

I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A LITTLE HELP.

HEY, LEE!

HEY, TONY.

THIS IS THE GUY I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, MAC. ***LEE PRICE.***

LEE, THIS IS ***MAC GARGAN.*** HE WORKS SECURITY AT ALCHEMAX AND HAS A LUCRATIVE... SIDE BUSINESS.

LEE. TONY TELLS ME YOU WERE AN ARMY RANGER.

YOU EVER ***KILL*** ANYBODY?

YEAH.

WHY? WE GONNA HAVE TO KILL SOMEBODY FOR THIS JOB?

WHOA, HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TONY HAS TOLD YOU, BUT MY EMPLOYER RUNS A ***NON-LETHAL ORGANIZATION.***

WE'RE STRICTLY ***TRANSACTIONAL.***

UH-HUH.

TONY, I THINK YOUR FRIEND MIGHT BE AN @#$%.

AND I GOT A ***THING*** ABOUT @#$%. BEING THAT THEY'RE @#$%.

NO, NO! YOU GOT HIM ALL WRONG. LEE'S JUST ***NERVOUS,*** IS ALL.

NO. HE DON'T LOOK LIKE A GUY WHO GETS ***NERVOUS.*** DO YOU, SOLDIER-BOY?

YOU ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO WENT OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND GOT TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF ***MURDER MACHINE?***

'CUZ I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, BUDDY, I'VE SPENT A LIFETIME AROUND PSYCHOS AND MONSTERS AND I'M NOT LOOKING TO ADD ANOTHER ONE TO MY FACEBOOK FRIENDS.

AND IF YOU'RE SOME KIND OF P.T.S.D. CASE, I GOT ***NO*** SYMPATHY FOR YOU, MAN. I'VE HAD MY HEAD CRACKED OPEN BY THE ***GOD OF THUNDER.***

OKAY.

I WAS WOUNDED IN ACTION AND DISCHARGED FROM THE RANGERS. IN ORDER TO GET MY BENEFITS--WHICH **STILL** HAVEN'T COME THROUGH--I'M CLASSIFIED *"DISABLED,"* WHICH BOUNCES ME OUT OF THE RUNNING FOR ANY DOMESTIC SECURITY FIRM WORTH A DAMN, AND I AM **NOT** GOING OVERSEAS AGAIN TO RUN AROUND SOME GODFORSAKEN WAR ZONE.

NEW YORK IS MY HOME. AND I NEED TO **WORK.**

I DO WHAT YOU TELL ME. YOU NEED SOMEONE TO STAY COOL WHEN THINGS GET DICEY? I CAN DO THAT.

YOU NEED ME TO PULL THE TRIGGER ON--

WHOA, HEY! WHAT DID I SAY?

WE DON'T NEED YOU **KILLING** ANYONE. WE JUST NEED YOU TO STAND THERE AND **LOOK** LIKE YOU CAN KILL SOMEONE. AND I THINK YOU GOT THAT DOWN.

SEE YOU JOKERS TONIGHT.

YOU'RE TOLD THERE'S MORE GOOD THAN BAD IN THE WORLD, BUT IF THERE IS, I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

SURE, THERE'S THE *COSTUMES*, BUT THAT ONLY HELPS PROVE MY POINT. FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM FIGHTING FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE, THERE ARE TWENTY MORE ROBBING BANKS AND BUILDING DOOMSDAY MACHINES.

♪♪ DO YOU NEED SOME TIME... ON YOUR OWN... ♫♫

GOTTA BE SOME FOOD AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE.

THE ODDS ARE *NOT* IN OUR FAVOR.

WOZZAT?

SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO MAKE *COMPROMISES.*

MRRGPH!

NNG.

HURGGHH!

THERE'S SO MUCH PAIN IN THIS CITY. SO MANY LOST PEOPLE.

AND NOW I'M JUST ONE OF THEM.

YOU KNOW, I REMEMBER WHEN **CREDIT CARD NUMBERS** WERE THE BIG THING.

MEET A GUY IN A COFFEE SHOP, HE GIVES YOU A CD-ROM.

NOW LOOK AT THIS--SOME KINDA TOXIC **GAS** THAT MAYBE TURNS YOU INTO A **MONSTER.**

LAST YEAR I MOVED A **NUCLEAR WARHEAD.** I ACTUALLY **TOUCHED** IT. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THIS BUSINESS IS--

TONY.

THEY'RE HERE.

ALL RIGHT, KIDS. YOUR UNCLE TOMBSTONE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HIS STUFF. YOU CAN HEAD BACK HOME NOW.

WHERE'S THE PAYMENT?

THE PAYMENT IS YOU GET TO *LIVE.* COME WORK FOR US IF YOU WANT.

OUR BOSS IS AN *OLD-FASHIONED GUY.* SAYS A CRIME BOSS WHO LOOKS LIKE A *SUPER MODEL* IN *SPANDEX* IS HIS IDEA OF A *BAD JOKE.*

HE DON'T MAKE *DEALS* WITH HER, AND, FRANKLY, YOU GUYS SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO TAKE *ORDERS* FROM HER.

SO, WHAT? NOW I TAKE ORDERS FROM *YOU?*

THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GET *VIOLENT.* I DIDN'T BRING A *GUN.*

THAT'S *YOUR* DUMB MISTAKE, THEN.

IT WAS RIGHT ABOUT THEN I REALIZED I MIGHT ACTUALLY NOT MAKE IT THROUGH THIS NIGHT *ALIVE.*

I'D HITCHED MYSELF TO THE WRONG GUY WHO WAS ABOUT TO DIE HIMSELF.

JUST GO AHEAD IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT.

AND THEN I FOUND SALVATION.

SHRAAK

WHAT THE HELL...?!

OR, RATHER, IT FOUND ME.

KILL IT!

AND I KNEW THEN THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE--

WAIT.

SAW A LOT OF *VIOLENCE* GROWING UP.

EVERYWHERE, NOT JUST HOME.

AFTER FIVE YEARS AS A WARD OF THE STATE, I FIGURED, HELL, WHY NOT MAKE THEM PAY FOR A FEW MORE?

IT'S ONE HELLHOLE AFTER ANOTHER, JUST LIKE BEFORE. BUT AT LEAST THEY GIVE YOU *WEAPONS* AND THE TRAINING TO *USE* THEM.

AND I WAS *GOOD*.

ANOTHER THING THEY TEACH YOU, THOUGH, IS TO LOOK OUT FOR THE *OTHER* GUY.

IT WAS A *HARD LESSON*.

A *SOLDIER*!

WHAT THE--

MY LAST HOST WAS A SOLDIER, AND HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DECENT MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

WHAT *IS* THIS?!

WHAT ARE YOU?!

HE SAVED NEW YORK--HE SAVED *THE WORLD*!

AND WE COULD, TOO!

WE'RE GOING TO DO SUCH GREAT THINGS TOGET--

SHUT UP!

YOU THINK YOU'RE *IN CONTROL* HERE?

NO. THE ONE IN CONTROL...

...IS ME!

NO!

H-HOLY--!

DON'T!

NO, STOP!

DON'T DO THIS!

SPLORTCH

I DON'T WANT THIS!

LEE...ARE YOU *IN* THERE, MAN?

COME ON, LEE. PLEASE *HEAR* ME.

WOW. THAT'S...

WHAT A *RUSH!*

YOU CAN **CONTROL** THAT THING?

I THINK I CAN, YEAH.

HOLY @##$%, MAN, WE GOTTA GET YOU TO A DOCTOR OR SOMETHIN'.

NO. NO...JUST LET ME **THINK.**

THINK? WHAT'S THERE TO **THINK** ABOUT, MAN? YOU'VE GOT **MONSTER GOO** ON YOU!

THIS THING...IT'S **TALKING** INSIDE MY HEAD. IT'S A **SUIT.** OTHER PEOPLE HAVE HAD IT BEFORE ME.

A "SUIT"? WHAT, YOU'RE **IRON MAN** NOW?

BETTER. THIS THING IS **ALIVE.** IT'S FOUGHT **SPIDER-MAN.** THIS...IS **AMAZING.**

HOW DO YOU **KNOW** ALL THIS?

IT'S SPEAKING IN MY MIND. I CAN HEAR ITS **THOUGHTS.**

THE **POSSIBILITIES** FOR US--IF WE KEEP THIS **SECRET...**

YEAH... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. WITH POWER LIKE **THIS,** YOU AND I COULD MAKE A **BIG** MOVE.

NO, TONY.

WHEN I SAID "WE," I **DIDN'T** MEAN "YOU AND I."

WHA--?

OH, NO.

P-PLEASE... I WON'T SAY **ANYTHING!**

I JUST KILLED A MAN I'VE KNOWN SINCE GRADE SCHOOL BECAUSE I KNEW HE COULDN'T KEEP A **SECRET.**

WHO WOULD I TELL? NO ONE WOULD LISTEN! I'M JUST A CRAZY OLD BUM. NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME!

YOU KNOW? YOU'RE VERY CONVINCING.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM...

NO! NO! **NOOO!**

SAW A LOT OF VIOLENCE. ***EVERYWHERE,*** NOT JUST HOME. BUT HOME WAS THE ***WORST.***

THAT DIDN'T MEAN I WAS ***SPECIAL,*** THOUGH. THAT JUST MEANT I WAS FROM ***QUEENS.***

THAT'S THE LAST TIME YOU EVER LAY A HAND ON ME!

THERE WAS THIS KID IN MY BUILDING. ***HE*** WAS SPECIAL.

DEVELOPED ***MUTANT POWERS.*** HE USE TO SHOW THEM OFF--ROASTING BEEHIVES, SQUIRRELS, WHATEVER. HE THOUGHT HE WAS PRETTY COOL.

WHOA! AWESOME!

I REMEMBER WHEN THEY FINALLY CAME FOR HIM.

NO SPECIAL SCHOOLS. NO SUPER HERO TEAM. JUST THE COPS AND SOME SHADY GOVERNMENT SUITS.

I WASN'T HOME WHEN IT HAPPENED. BUT MY ***MOM*** WAS.

DAD SPLIT NOT LONG AFTER THAT. I REMEMBER LOOKING AT MY WHOLE LIFE LITERALLY GOING UP IN FLAMES AND THINKING:

YOU MUST BE LEE. MY NAME IS SARAH, AND I'M WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES. COME WITH ME, WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE.

DO NOT CROSS /// DO NOT

IF IT'D BEEN ME WITH THAT POWER, I'D HAVE BURNED THE WHOLE THING DOWN ***YEARS*** AGO.

AND I WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN CAUGHT.

THESE ARE THE MEMORIES I USE TO SMOTHER THE THING IN MY HEAD AS IT ***SCREAMS*** AT ME. TO MAKE IT GO SILENT.

BUT THAT'S ***ANOTHER*** THING I LEARNED IN THE RANGERS. SCREAMING SOLVES NOTHING. THE PERSON WHO'S SCREAMING? THEY'VE ***ALREADY*** LOST.

THE PEOPLE WHO ***WIN*** ARE THE PEOPLE WHO STAY CALM. AND THE PEOPLE WHO GET ***LUCKY?***

THEY'RE THE PEOPLE WHO USE THOSE BREAKS TO THEIR ***ADVANTAGE.***

AND SO I MINIMIZED ALL THE ***VARIABLES*** IN THE SITUATION. I CAPITALIZED ON THE IMMEDIATE ***GAINS.***

AND THEN I WENT HOME...

...TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THIS POWER TO MY *ADVANTAGE.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

SYMBIWROTE

ALLISON STOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

WELCOME BACK, VENOM!

For years, Venom has been one of the most iconic Spider-Man villains in the Friendly Neighborhood Wall-Crawler's rogues' gallery. Created by Todd McFarlane, Mike Zeck, and David Michelinie in 1988, the sinister symbiote became a sensation almost immediately. There's something about Venom's look – his eyes, fangs, and of course his classic black-and-white color scheme – that's made him an international icon of villainy. You get a single glance at him and know he's not exactly "nice."

And yet, almost from his inception, there's been a tendency to drive Venom toward heroism. First, he was a lethal protector, then a secret agent, and most recently a Guardian of the Galaxy. There have been hundreds of Venom stories over the years, and a plethora of them have been about Venom grappling with his own violent tendencies and trying to be hero.

Not this time.

At the keyboard for this series is Mike Costa, who devoted Spider-Fans may recognize as the writer of 2014's SCARLET SPIDERS miniseries or the recent cult hit WEB-WARRIORS. As you've seen, Mike's a terrific writer, and one of his greatest strengths is that his characters are all very deliberately written. Like a playwright, Mike ensures that all of his characters are acting with an objective in mind, and he's taken that style of characterization and applied it to the Venom symbiote itself, a perspective we've rarely seen in the near 30-year history of the character. This is the first real look into the symbiote's thoughts and feelings that we've taken, and it's going to pay off in ways you'll never see coming.

Serving as artist on this run will be Gerardo Sandoval, who also closed out the previous volume of the series featuring Flash Thompson playing host to the symbiote. Gerardo's style is incredibly visceral, but maintains an elegant quality that makes it perfect for the shape-shifting superviolence of Venom. Gerardo's doing some of the best Venom artwork I've ever seen, and I've been reading Venom stories since I was six years old. This is Venom in his prime, as he was meant to be drawn!

From the outset, our goal with this series has been to create a lasting, meaningful chapter in the Venom saga, threading classic characters and members of the Venom mythos into a new and exciting story. We've got some big things in store. Seriously, you've got no idea. This is a love letter to Venom fans everywhere. You've already seen that Mac Gargan plays a part in the story, and we've got big plans for Flash Thompson.

Am I forgetting anyone?

Don't get me wrong, the struggle between what is right and what is wrong, between justice and vengeance, between good and evil, are all part of the core of Venom's character. Thanks to his time bonded with Peter Parker, heroism is literally written into his DNA, but this is unlike any volume of VENOM you've ever read before.

You've seen it yourself in these very pages. This is still the Venom you know and love, but a new host and his most recent adventures have given the symbiote a new perspective. This time around, we're pushing the limits in nearly every way. Now, Venom is like a raw nerve. Violent, chaotic, angry.

Hope you aren't squeamish.

VENOM #2 will be on stands on 12/21, just in time for the holidays, so be sure to pick up a copy for each and every loved one on your list. In the meantime, be sure to drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and let us know how we're doing!

Stay sharp,
Devin
@edevinlewis

NEXT ISSUE:

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MARVEL

#2

COSTA
SANDOVAL
OLAZABA
ALMARA

VENOM®

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIO-ORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM

ALTHOUGH THE SYMBIOTE'S PAST EXPERIENCES AND HOSTS HAVE GIVEN IT A FODNESS FOR EARTH AND TAUGHT IT HOW TO BE A HERO, HIS NEW HOST IS BOTH AMBITIOUS AND SELFISH, PUTTING ITS REHABILITATION IN JEOPARDY. LEE IS ALSO DIFFERENT IN THAT INSTEAD OF THE SYMBIOTE CONTROLLING HIM...*HE* CAN CONTROL *IT.*

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
ARTIST

DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
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COVER ARTIST

TRADD MOORE
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

ALLISON STOCK
ASST. EDITOR

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IT WAS WHEN I STEPPED OFF THE ELEVATOR THAT I FELT THE COLD FIST IN MY STOMACH START TO CLENCH.

I'D MANAGED TO TALK MY WAY UP TO THE FLOOR. THAT'S EASIER THAN YOU'D THINK.

THE *CASE* IS WHAT GOT ME THE REST OF THE WAY.

SOMETHING THIS VALUABLE OPENS A LOT OF DOORS.

IT CAN ALSO GET YOU KILLED.

SO, THEY TELL ME THE THING LAST NIGHT WENT BAD, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MADE IT OUT ALIVE.

THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT, BLACK CAT.

"SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT"? YOU WERE **THERE.** YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

YEAH!

I KNOW WE WALKED INTO A SITUATION WHERE THE BUYER HAD NO INTENTION OF ACTUALLY **BUYING,** WHICH IS A FAILURE ABOVE MY PERSONAL PAY GRADE.

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S **OUR** FAULT.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I SAID I WASN'T THE ONE PAID TO SET THIS MEET UP, I WAS PAID TO **COMPLETE** IT.

I WASN'T ABLE TO DO THAT, SO I BROUGHT YOUR MERCHANDISE BACK TO YOU.

A DAY LATER, THOUGH. WHY DIDN'T YOU GET WORD TO US RIGHT AWAY?

HOW WOULD I HAVE DONE THAT? MY ONLY CONTACT TO YOU WAS KILLED IN THAT ALLEY.

IN THE ALLEY WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, AND OUR PEOPLE ON THE POLICE FORCE TELL US THAT THOSE MEN DIED OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN GUNSHOTS.

CARE TO TELL US WHAT YOU WERE DOING ALL NIGHT?

THE NIGHT BEFORE...

ALL RIGHT, YOU BLACK GOOPY ALIEN OR *WHATEVER*...

WHERE DID YOU GO?

I *FEEL* YOU INSIDE MY GUTS LIKE A COLD LUMP...

...BUT I DON'T HEAR YOU IN MY HEAD.

AH.

THERE YOU ARE.

YOU. YOU KILLED THOSE MEN.

YUP. AND YOU HELPED. THEN YOU WENT DARK ON ME FOR TWO HOURS.

IF THAT'S HOW THIS IS GOING TO BE, THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR ME.

"RECENTLY." SO IT WASN'T LIKE THAT BEFORE? YOU'VE LEFT SOME BODIES ON THE FLOOR BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?

A LOT, I BET.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

ONE OF THOSE MEN WAS YOUR FRIEND.

I WAS... WEAKENED FROM MY ORDEAL. AND SENSELESS VIOLENCE IS, RECENTLY, HORRIFYING TO ME. I WAS... UNPREPARED.

I DON'T *HAVE* FRIENDS.

I HAVE KNOWN MEN LIKE YOU. *HOLLOW*. EMPTY OF ANY SENSE OF *HONOR*. YOU ARE *EVIL*.

AND I HAVE HAD MY *FILL* OF EVIL. I *REFUSE* TO PARTICIPATE IN IT AGAIN.

I'M NOT SURE YOU HAVE ANY SAY IN IT.

LITTLE MAN, WHOM DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO? I'VE COME FROM THE STARS AND HAVE WOVEN MYSELF INTO THE GANGLIA OF YOUR PARIETAL LOBE.

JUST BECAUSE I WON'T *KILL* YOU DOESN'T MEAN IT IS WISE TO *ANTAGONIZE* ME.

NOT WISE, HUH?

IT HAS BEEN *SOME TIME* SINCE A HOST ATTEMPTED TO RESIST. I ASSURE YOU THIS WILL BE MORE PAINFUL FOR YOU THAN ME.

YOU CONTINUE TO RESIST?! HO--

NOW, *LISTEN UP.*

I WAS AN *ARMY RANGER.* THEY TRAIN US IN ALL KINDS OF THINGS--CQC, DEMOLITIONS, AND *OVERCOMING PSYCHIC INCURSION.*

NOW, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A *VERY* SERIOUS CONVERSATION...

...ABOUT WHO'S ACTUALLY *IN CHARGE* HERE.

I SPENT THE NIGHT *THINKING.*

NOW.

THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE YOUR DECISION TO BRING OUR MATERIAL BACK TO US WAS UP IN THE AIR.

OF COURSE IT WAS. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED WITH ***THAT*** DEAL. YOU COULD HAVE SENT US INTO THAT AMBUSH ON PURPOSE.

I'VE SEEN INSIDE THAT MAN'S ***HEAD***, LEE. IT'S ***CAVERNOUS*** WITH HOLLOW RAGE. STALACTITES OF HATE.

LEE, I KNOW THAT MAN. THAT'S MAC GARGAN.

OR MAYBE, EVEN IF I BROUGHT THIS BACK, YOU'D BLAME ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED. IN WHICH CASE, MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO ***KEEP*** IT, AND SELL IT ***MYSELF.***

REGULAR EINSTEIN OVER HERE, HUH?

SO WHAT TIPPED THE SCALES?

YOU'VE GOT A REPUTATION FOR ***PLAYING FAIR.*** AND I DON'T ***KNOW*** ANY OF THE KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD BUY WHATEVER NIGHTMARE TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE IN THIS BOX.

I CAN'T LET YOU WORK WITH THESE PEOPLE, LEE.

WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT WHATEVER YOU'RE GETTING INTO IS GOING TO GET MESSY. I HAVE...SKILLS THAT COULD BE USEFUL TO YOUR ORGANIZATION.

AND, FRANKLY, I NEED A JOB, NOT A ONE-TIME SCORE.

I CAN'T HAVE YOU DRAGGING ME INTO WORKING FOR THEM.

YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

HM.

YOU'RE A GAMBLER, THAT'S FOR SURE. AND YOU'RE A SURVIVOR. I KNOW YOU CAME IN HERE KNOWING THAT WOULD APPEAL TO ME, BECAUSE THAT'S WHO I AM, TOO.

AND YOUR GAMBLE PAID OFF. I NEED MORE MEN LIKE YOU.

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MY CHOICES, LEE. IT'S TRUE, YOU LOCKED ME OUT OF YOUR HIGHER FUNCTIONS.

BUT, THERE ARE CERTAIN INVOLUNTARY RESPONSES I CAN PULL THE TRIGGER ON.

GOOD TO HEAR THAT, CAT. I CAN PROMISE YOU--

ULP!

HRALGH!

WHAT THE HELL...?

SORRY. NERVES.

PLEASE. I DOUBT YOU'VE HAD "NERVES" SINCE YOU WERE TWELVE YEARS OLD ON THE PLAYGROUND.

WHATEVER IT IS, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. AND GET THAT BUCKET OUT OF HERE.

YOUR PET ***SCORPION*** KNOWS HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME.

THAT WAS DISGUSTING. I NEED A NEW SUITE. I'M NOT STAYING IN HERE NOW.

SOMETHING SO FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT GUY...

AND HOW'D HE KNOW I'M ***SCORPION?***

COME ON, MAN. WITH THE **ONION RINGS.**

IT'S NOT YOUR CAR, WAMBAUGH. WHEN IT'S **YOUR** CAR, YOU GET A SAY IN WHAT I ORDER. WHEN IT'S THE **COMPANY** CAR, I GET ONION RINGS.

HELLO, HERE'S **THIS** GUY AGAIN.

HOTEL

WAS HE CARRYING A BUCKET WHEN HE WENT INSIDE?

HE HAD A **CASE.** BAGMAN.

FACIAL RECOGNITION COME BACK YET?

PARTNER, I HAVEN'T EVEN PUT IN THE **REQUEST** YET. THE GUY JUST WALKED IN THERE **TWENTY MINUTES** AGO.

SO... YOU THINKING WHAT **I'M** THINKING?

NOT FOR *ME.* FOR *THEM.*

YOU ARE THE BEST ADVANTAGE I HAVE IN *ANY* SITUATION, BUT *ONLY* IF NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU. YOU ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF *EVERYONE UP THERE.*

AND *THEN* WHERE WOULD I BE? I'M ON A *LADDER* HERE. YOU KNOW HOW *HARD* IT IS TO GET IN WITH ONE OF THESE CREWS?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... YOU WANT TO BE A *CRIME BOSS* NOW?

NO. NOT THE *BOSS.*

DON'T *EVER* PULL SOME $^@# LIKE THAT *AGAIN.* DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW *DANGEROUS* THAT WAS?

I DOUBT THEY WOULD HAVE *KILLED* YOU FOR REGURGITATING IN THEIR *WASTE-BASKET,* LEE.

"THE *BOSS* IS A PUBLIC FACE. THE *BOSS* IS THE ONE WHO GETS PINCHED.

"NO, I'M ALL RIGHT STAYING IN THE SHADOWS AND GETTING WHAT I'M *OWED.*"

NOW THAT I HAVE YOU, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M *NOT* GONNA DO?

I'M *NOT* GONNA ROB A BANK IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND MAKE MY GETAWAY IN A CAR WITH MY OWN *FACE* PAINTED ON IT.

I'M NOT GONNA GET ON TV AND ANNOUNCE THAT I'M HOLDING THE CITY *HOSTAGE.*

I'M GONNA DO THIS **SMART.** **INVISIBLE.**

I'M NOT GONNA BE MIXING IT UP WITH **SUPERFREAKS** IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET--

OH, WHAT THE %#$% IS **THIS?**

THIS IS YOUR **DEATH,** DELIVERED TO YOU **PERSONALLY** BY **FIREBUG!**

DID YOU THINK TOMBSTONE WOULD **FORGET** HIS MEN YOU MURDERED IN THAT ALLEY?

WHO? BUDDY, I REMEMBER FIREBUG FROM WHEN I WAS A KID. YOU'RE NOT HIM, YOU'RE, LIKE, **TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD.**

YEAH, GUESS WHAT, GENIUS? FIREBUG IS A **FRANCHISE** NOW. I PAID **GOOD MONEY** FOR THIS SUIT AND NAME.

INCINERATORS ARE **CRAP** AS WEAPONS, AND THIS KID IS AN **IDIOT.** TEN-TO-ONE ALL HE KNOWS HOW TO DO IS SPRAY AND PRAY. WE CAN **TAKE** HIM.

BUT DON'T WORRY. I'LL EARN IT **ALL** BACK WITH THE CASH I GET FROM TAKING **YOU** OUT.

I WILL NOT HELP YOU TO **HURT** ANOTHER PERSON, LEE.

I'M CONFIDENT YOU'RE ABOUT TO **RETHINK** THAT POSITION.

YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO HAVE SURVEILLANCE VANS FOR THIS?

NO.

YEAH, BEFORE YOUR TIME. WE USED TO HAVE ALL ***KINDS*** OF RESOURCES. THEN THE MUTANTS CAME AROUND AND SUDDENLY NOBODY'S ALL THAT WORRIED ABOUT ORGANIZED CRIME ANYMORE.

FBI REALLY CARED THAT MUCH ABOUT MUTANTS?

MUTANTS. COSTUMES. GIGANTIC GODLIKE BEINGS FROM ALPHA CENTAURI WANTING TO CRASH THE MOON INTO THE EARTH. WE'RE BASICALLY A LINE ITEM ON THE S.H.I.E.L.D. BUDGET NOW.

WE USED TO RUN ***BLACK BAG*** ON SUSPECTED MUTANTS, MAN. IT WAS LIKE J. EDGAR'S COMMIE-HUNTING YEARS FOR A WHILE.

YOU USED TO BREAK INTO THE HOUSES OF SUSPECTED MUTANTS?

WELL, ***I*** DIDN'T. I WAS RIDING A DESK FILING BRIEFS.

BUT THIS ***ONE*** OLD-TIMER, HE TELLS ME ABOUT HOW HE'S RUNNING SURVEILLANCE ON THIS WOMAN--SUSPECTED MUTANT. HE'S IN HER PLACE, TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS, AND SHE COMES HOME. ***GORGEOUS*** WOMAN.

AND HER ***MUTANT POWER*** IS SHE CAN ***STRANGLE*** A GUY WITH HER--

WHOA, HEY, ARE YOU SEEING THIS?

YEAH, BOSS. IT'S **DONE.** GUY COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THAT I WAS THE ONE TO SHOW UP. HE WAS **TERRIFIED,** OBVIOUSLY. MEEK AS A KITTEN--

YIIIIIIIIIII!

HOLY $%&@%!

RAAAAAAGGGHHH!

YOU... TRIED TO **BURN** USSSSS...

BUT WORSE, YOU'VE **SEEN** USSSS...ANYONE WHO SEES US MUST DIE!

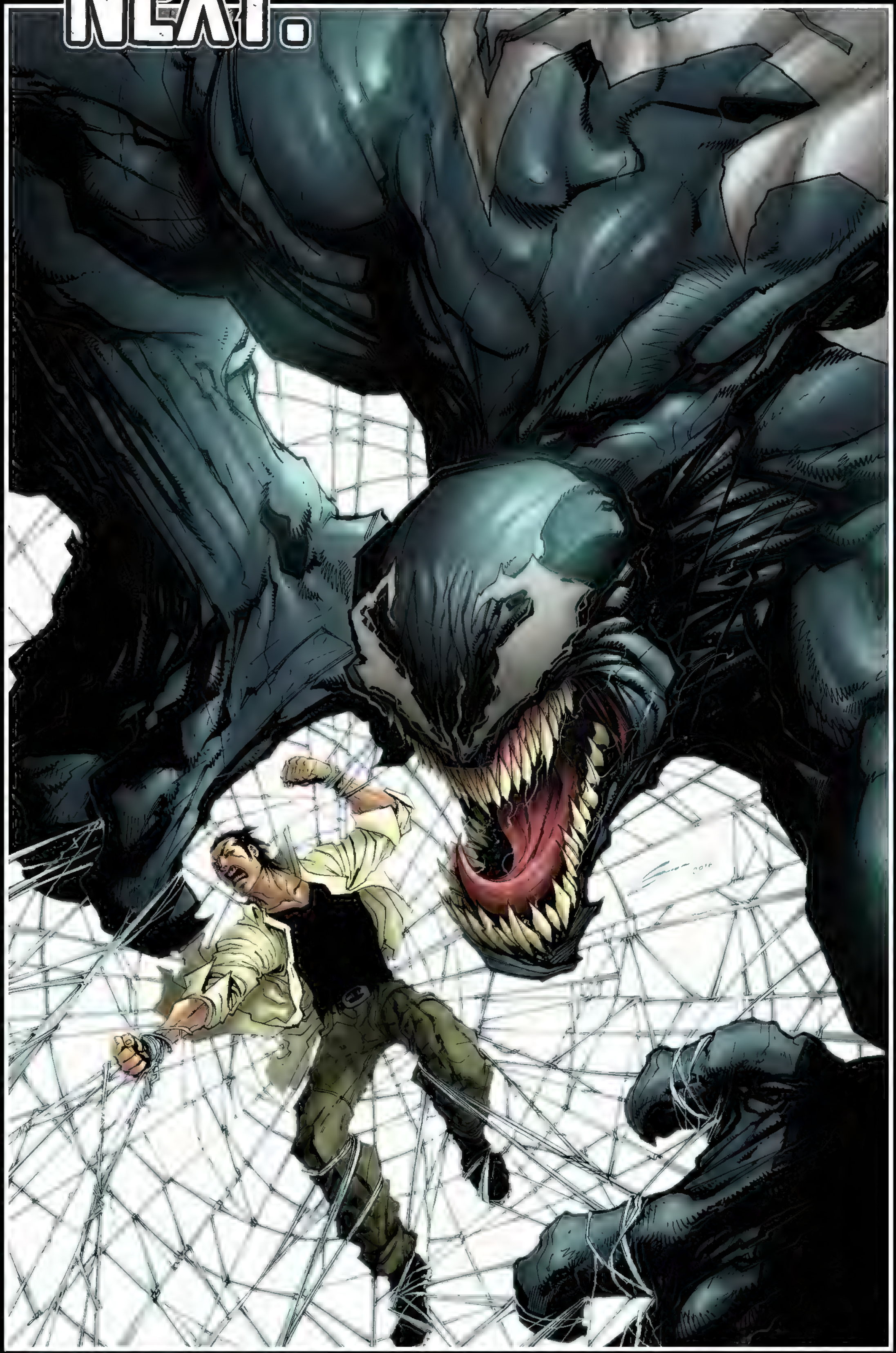
HALT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, PAL, BUT I'VE GOT ENOUGH ORDNANCE HERE TO DROP THE ***THING!***

FEDERAL AGENT. YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



MARVEL

#3

COSTA
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ALMARA

VENOM®

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT, IN THE PROCESS, WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

BONDED TO A HOMELESS MAN AND STUMBLING THROUGH BROOKLYN, THE SYMBIOTE INADVERTENTLY WALKED INTO AN ARMS DEAL GONE BAD. ONE OF THE MEN AT THE SCENE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER NAMED LEE PRICE, WAS IN THE LINE OF FIRE WHEN, IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIS LIFE, THE SYMBIOTE INSTINCTIVELY BLANKETED ITSELF OVER HIM.

IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, PRICE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE BONDED, AND THANKS TO HIS MILITARY TRANING, LEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPOSE HIS WILL UPON THE CREATURE IN THE HOPES OF UNDERMINING THE BLACK CAT IN HER QUEST TO BECOME NEW YORK'S KINGPIN OF CRIME.

HE JUST HAS TO DEAL WITH THE F.B.I. AGENTS WHO ARE ON HIS TAIL FIRST...

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
ARTIST

DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA
COLOR ARTIST

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EXEC. PRODUCER

SPECIAL THANKS
VICTOR NAVA

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THOUGH WE ARE A BENEVOLENT SPECIES, THERE IS NO LITERATURE ON MY HOME PLANET.

AND THOUGH IT IS OUR GOAL TO MAKE THE UNIVERSE BETTER, WE CREATE NO ART, NO MUSIC, NO *CULTURE*. AT LEAST, NOT AS OTHER CIVILIZATIONS WOULD UNDERSTAND IT.

ALL WE HAVE ARE OUR *HOSTS*--THE BEINGS WE *JOIN* WITH--TO FORGE THROUGH THE COLD AND UNFORGIVING COSMOS WITH.

THE BOND BETWEEN A *KLYNTAR* AND ITS HOST IS *SACRED*. THEY GIVE OUR LIVES CONTEXT AND OUR EXISTENCE MEANING.

THEY GIVE US *HISTORY*.

ALL WE HAVE ARE OUR HOSTS TO TELL US *WHO* WE *ARE*.

I HAVE HAD MANY ANGRY HOSTS AND MY TIME EXPOSED TO THEIR PSYCHES *CORRUPTED* ME, DROVE ME AWAY FROM MY SPECIES' *TRUE* NATURE.

BUT ONE HOST, FROM *EARTH* OF ALL PLACES, SHOWED ME A *BETTER* WAY.

MANY OF MY HOSTS SINCE WERE *VIOLENT* OR CRUEL.

EXCEPT FOR THE MOST RECENT.

FLASH THOMPSON.

WITH *HIM*, I WAS A *HERO*. I WAS *BUILDING* SOMETHING.

MY *NEWEST* HOST, HOWEVER...

GET OUT OF MY WAY OR I'LL *KILL* YOU.

GET--

RELEASE THE HOSTAGE AND GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD!

OH #%$@, PARTNER!

IS THAT *VENOM?!* I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE GOO--

GET BACK TO THE CAR, COYLE!

AND *YOU!* RELEASE THE HOSTAGE! I WON'T ASK AGAIN!

YOU WANT TO TAKE A POKE AT ME NEXT? FINE. *FIREBUG* HERE WON'T TAKE LONG.

NNNNNGGG...

F...F...

#%*& YOU!

AAAARRRGGGG!

AW, HELL.

SKRABOOM

NYYARRRGH!

COME ON, KEEP IT TOGETHER! I KNOW IT HURTS, BUT GET IT UNDER CONTROL!

I CAN'T DO THIS! NEED SOMEONE ELSE. ANYONE ELSE. *ANYONE ELSE!*

HOLD IT TOGETHER OR *WE DIE!*

PLEASE TELL ME YOU CALLED BACKUP!

WHEN WOULD I HAVE HAD TIME TO DO THAT?!

I COULD JOIN WITH ONE OF THEM! A POLICE OFFICER!

NYAAARGHEE!

NO! STOP! COME BACK!

LET.

ME.

YAAA! WHAT IS THIS?

NO!

GO!

BLAM BLAM

GUH!

WAMBALIGH! PERP'S DOWN! LET'S GET THAT THING OFF YOU!

GETITOFF GETITOFFGETITOFF GETITOFF!

I CAN HELP YOU. THE THINGS WE COULD DO--

IT'S SCARED OF THE FIRE!

HIT IT WITH THE FIRE!

LET ME HELP YOU!

I'M MEANT FOR THIS! TO BE A HERO! TO SAVE LIVES!

TO SAVE...

NFF...

TO SAVE LIVES.

DAMN IT.

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

BLACK CAT'S HEADQUARTERS.

DID YOU SAVE THE *PUKE?*

EXCUSE ME?

THAT LYING #^&@ THAT WAS IN HERE THIS AFTERNOON. HE PUKED IN THE TRASH CAN. DID YOU *SAVE* IT?

NO, I DIDN'T SAVE HIS *PUKE,* GARGAN.

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND IN IT?

YOUR GUY AT THE NYPD SENT ME PHOTOS FROM THAT SCENE IN THE ALLEY WITH OUR PEOPLE.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

THAT GUY EXPECTS US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS A DEAL *GONE BAD?* AN *AMBUSH?*

THIS LOOK LIKE THEY WERE SHOT UP BY TOMBSTONE'S BOYS TO YOU?

HE'S *LYING,* CAT. I CAN--

GARGAN, IF I REFUSED TO WORK WITH LIARS, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO WORK WITH.

WE KNEW WHATEVER WENT DOWN THERE WAS A SUPERHUMAN AMBUSH BEFORE THAT MAN EVEN SET FOOT IN OUR DOOR. THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE KINGPIN'S BOYS MAKING A MOVE. THIS COULD BE *ANYTHING.*

IT COULD BE *HIM!*

WHY? SO HE COULD BRING ME BACK MY OWN CARGO? AT WORST, HE'D BE GUILTY OF TRYING *TOO* HARD TO WORK FOR ME.

IT'S NOT *HIM* I'M WORRIED ABOUT, MAC.

TONY?

LEE!

NOT MUCH TO **SAY** THESE DAYS. YOU **KILLED** ME, DUDE.

THERE'S SOMETHING **BLACK** INSIDE OF YOU.

I KNOW...

IT'S BEEN THERE ALL ALONG.

"I JUST NEEDED SOMETHING TO SET IT *FREE.*"

NNNFF...

WHERE... WHERE AM--

THIS... IS *TONY'S* PLACE.

I SAW IT IN YOUR MEMORIES. IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT SEEMED *SAFE.*

EXPLAINS WHY I WAS *DREAMING* ABOUT HIM.

YES. I SAW YOUR *DREAMS,* TOO.

BUT YOU *SAVED* ME, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU WANT TO HATE ME, BUT YOU *SAVED* ME.

I DO HATE YOU, LEE PRICE.

BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN I WILL LET YOU *DIE* WHILE IT IS IN MY POWER TO *SAVE* YOU. I *PROTECT* LIFE.

HEH. YEAH, YOU WERE REALLY KEEN ON PROTECTING THE LIFE OF THAT KID WHO TRIED TO INCINERATE US.

...EAT...

THAT WAS...

FIRE IS--

I GET IT. YOU'RE LIKE A *DOG*. SMART WHEN YOU'RE CALM, BUT WHEN YOU'RE *SPOOKED?* JUST AN ANIMAL ACTING ON INSTINCT.

YOU *THINK* YOU WANT TO BE A HERO. BUT WHAT YOU *REALLY* WANT, MORE THAN ANYTHING...

...IS FOR SOMEONE TO BE IN *CHARGE*.

FEDERAL AGENT!

303

SO... LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.

HOW THE HELL DID YOU *FIND* ME?

ARE YOU NOT LISTENING? *'FEDERAL AGENT.'* YOU'RE LEE PRICE. KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF TONY CONSIGLIO, RECENTLY DECEASED.

AND AFTER THAT LITTLE ***DISPLAY*** IN THAT ALLEYWAY, YOU REALLY THINK YOU WERE ALL THAT TOUGH TO ***FOLLOW?***

LISTEN, OFFICER--

AGENT.

LISTEN, ***AGENT.*** I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK I AM OR WHAT YOU THINK I DID, BUT I CAN GUARANTEE THAT YOU'RE WRO--

CUT THE &%$#.

I SAW YOUR ***FACE*** IN THAT ALLEYWAY, PRICE. ONLY PLACE I'VE GOTTEN A ***BETTER LOOK*** AT IT WAS IN YOUR OLD BUDDY TONY'S ***CASE FILE.***

WE GO TO ***GRAD SCHOOL*** FOR THIS STUFF, YOU KNOW.

...

I CAN *KILL* YOU. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

THAT RIFLE MEANS *NOTHING* TO ME.

I *WON'T* LET YOU KILL THIS MAN. I'LL *FIGHT* YOU. YOU'RE STILL WEAK.

HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT.

YEAH, YOU *COULD* KILL ME. AND TO BE HONEST... I'M PRETTY SCARED RIGHT NOW.

BUT. IF SOME KIND OF BLACK TENTACLE GOO TRIES TO STRANGLE ME...

"...MY *PARTNER* WILL SEND AN INCENDIARY PAYLOAD THROUGH THAT PRETTY LITTLE WINDOW."

OH, WELL, YOU'LL ***DEFINITELY*** DIE IF THAT HAPPENS.

MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH FOR ME.

NO. NO, IT MIGHT NOT. BUT TRY ***THIS*** ON.

WE KNOW YOU HAVE A SYMBIOTE. AND WE KNOW YOU'VE TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT ANYONE, INCLUDING YOUR CRIMINAL PALS, FROM ***KNOWING*** YOU HAVE THAT SYMBIOTE. PRESUMABLY.

AND WE'RE NOT HERE TO ARREST YOU.

I'M LISTENING.

WHATEVER YOUR PLANS WERE, PRICE, THEY'VE JUST CHANGED.

EITHER MY PARTNER PULLS THAT TRIGGER AND YOU DIE IN HERE WITH ME...

...OR YOU SURVIVE, AND BLACK CAT AND HER CREW START WONDERING WHY MY AGENCY BLEW UP THE RESIDENCE OF A ***DEAD*** MEMBER OF HER CREW FOR NO GOOD REASON. AND THEN SHE STARTS SNIFFING AROUND.

GIVE HER A DAY, A WEEK, A MONTH. DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG. SHE'LL BE ON YOUR TRAIL. AND ONCE SHE GETS A WHIFF OF THAT SYMBIOTE, SHE AND HERS WILL HUNT YOU DOWN. BEFORE LONG, YOUR SECRET ***WILL*** COME OUT.

AND THEN WHATEVER GAME YOU'RE RUNNING'LL BE DONE. OVER. AND YOU'LL BE HUNTED BY EVERY POLICE AGENCY AND SUPER HERO ON THE PLANET.

OR...

...YOU WORK FOR *US.*

SO I'M YOUR *RAT* NOW?

YOU'RE WHAT WE SAY YOU ARE. YOU GO WITH THIS DEAL, AND WE *ALL* BENEFIT. YOU *DON'T,* AND...IT'S *OVER* FOR ALL OF US. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR *ANGER* AT BEING *FORCED* INTO ACTION. BUT WE'LL BE WORKING TO DEFEAT *CRIMINALS!* *GOOD* CAN COME OF THIS!

SHUT UP.

YOU THINK HE'S ANY DIFFERENT THAN ME BECAUSE HE'S GOT A *BADGE?*

SINCE I'M NOT BEING MURDERED BY A SURGE OF BLACK *GOO* RIGHT NOW, I'M ASSUMING YOU SEE THE *SENSE* IN THIS.

YOU CAN MEET ME IN THE SQUARE IN FRONT OF PARKER INDUSTRIES TOMORROW AT NOON. WE'LL TALK DETAILS *THEN.*

WAS THIS *YOU?*

WHAT? I'M BURNING BUILDINGS NOW? WHO DO YOU THINK I AM? THE *MOLTEN MAN?*

THAT'S *LEE PRICE'S* APARTMENT.

IT IS? WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? IS HE *DEAD?*

NO. NO BODIES IN THE APARTMENT.

I'D JUST ASSUMED YOU'D TAKEN MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.

OH, YOU *"ASSUMED,"* *HUH?* THAT I'D GO BEHIND THE CAT'S BACK?

YOU CAME UPSTAIRS TODAY TO ASK ABOUT CHECKING ***VOMIT.*** OBVIOUSLY THERE'S SOMETHING IN WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT THAT'S GIVEN YOU CAUSE TO SUSPECT...

...WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT. BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S SOMETHING THE CAT CLEARLY DOESN'T ***UNDERSTAND.***

I KNOW YOU TO BE A MAN WHO LISTENS TO HIS ***GUT,*** GARGAN. AND WHO DOES WHAT HE THINKS NEEDS TO BE DONE.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. FIRE ***ISN'T*** YOUR STYLE.

WHEN YOU GO FOR HIM, YOU'LL GO ***DIRECTLY.*** THAT'S WHY THE CAT HIRED YOU IN THE ***FIRST*** PLACE, MAC.

TO DO THE THINGS THAT NEED ***DOING.***

DAMN RIGHT, ADAMS.

DAMN RIGHT.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

THE SCORPION STRIKES!

PLUS! AN ***OVERSIZED*** LETTER COLUMN, FEATURING YOUR LETTERS AND AN ***EXCLUSIVE*** PEEK AT

VENOM #150!

MARVEL

#4

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VENOM®

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, IN THE PROCESS.

WEAKENED BY THIS SEPARATION AND DESPERATE FOR A NEW HOST, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH LEE PRICE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER. THANKS TO HIS MILITARY TRAINING, LEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPOSE HIS WILL UPON THE CREATURE. HE HOPED TO SECRETLY USE THE SYMBIOTE TO HIS ADVANTAGE TO GAIN THE FAVOR OF THE BLACK CAT AS SHE WORKS TO BECOME NEW YORK'S KINGPIN OF CRIME.

WHILE BLACK CAT MAY NOT KNOW THAT LEE IS IN POSSESSION OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE, TWO FBI AGENTS ARE FULLY AWARE OF HIS SITUATION, AND ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CAPITALIZE ON IT...

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL & JUANAN RAMÍREZ
ARTISTS

VICTOR OLAZABA
INKER

DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

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CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

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PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

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"DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE, LEE.

"WAS CAPTURED HERE BEFORE. HELD PRISONER."

THAT'S WHY THOSE FBI STOOGES *CHOSE* THIS PLACE.

THEY KNEW I WOULDN'T RISK TRANSFORMING INTO A SLOBBERING MONSTER ON SPIDER-MAN'S *FRONT PORCH.*

DON'T LIKE BEING *PRISONER.*

YOU MAKE ME PRISONER, LEE.

SHUT UP. ONE OF THEM IS COMING.

AND DIDN'T YOU USED TO SOUND A LOT *SMARTER?*

WHERE'S YOUR PARTNER?

HE SAID IT WAS *MY* TURN TO RISK MY LIFE.

WE KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS YOU HAVE INSIDE OF YOU.

SO DO I. I TALK TO IT EVERY DAY.

CLASSIFIED

THOMPSON, E.

YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME. THAT THING SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN GOVERNMENT CAPTIVITY. WE'RE ***STUDIED*** IT. WE KNOW ITS WEAKNESSES--

AND I CAN PULL YOUR LUNGS OUT THROUGH YOUR RIB CAGE. EXCEPT I WON'T, BECAUSE THEN I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT ***SPIDER-MAN,*** AND ***YOU*** WON'T DO ANY OF THE THINGS YOU'RE SAYING, BECAUSE YOU ***CAN'T.***

NOT UNTIL I DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED ME TO DO. SO JUST GET TO THE POINT.

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

HERE'S THE POINT. WE'VE RESEARCHED THAT THING YOU'RE WEARING. WE KNOW IT HAS A BIO-ORGANIC ***MEMORY.***

WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHO SPIDER-MAN IS.

HOW THE HELL WOULD I EVEN ***KNOW*** WHO SPIDER-MAN IS?

IT'S LIKE I ***SAID.*** THAT THING HAS A ***MEMORY.*** IT CAN ***THINK.*** IT WAS BONDED WITH SPIDER-MAN, SO IT KNOWS WHO SPIDER-MAN ***IS.***

DO YOU KNOW?

I ***DON'T THINK*** SO, LEE.

WHY SPIDER-MAN? AREN'T YOU GUYS ON THE SAME TEAM?

ARE WE? WE'RE THE FBI, NOT THE X-MEN. NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF OUR JOB IS ***INVESTIGATION*** AND ***INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.***

SPIDER-MAN IS AT THE ***EPICENTER*** OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN NEW YORK, AND SINCE HE'S JOINED PETER PARKER'S PAYROLL AS HIS MASCOT, HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE.

HE'S TANGLED WITH THE KINGPIN, THE BLACK CAT, TOMBSTONE, ANYONE WHO'S ANYONE IN THIS CITY.

I DOUBT THERE'S A SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS MORE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

BUT DOES HE BRING THAT INFORMATION TO US? OF COURSE NOT. HE WANTS TO PLAY GAMES IN HIS PAJAMAS. AND NOW HE'S PROTECTED BY A MILLIONAIRE AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CHEER FOR HIM.

YOU GIVE US HIS NAME, AND HE WON'T BE SO PROTECTED ANYMORE.

THINK ABOUT IT. THE BUREAU WILL BE IN TOUCH, LEE.

NOT TELLING THEM WHAT THEY WANT TO KNOW?

WE COULDN'T EVEN IF WE *WANTED* TO.

MY BRAINS... NOT AS GOOD AS THEY WERE...

WELL, WHATEVER. I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT SPIDER-MAN.

THIS IS A BIG ASK, BUT IT'S NOT THEIR *REAL* ASK. IT'S A HAIL MARY. I GIVE THEM THE NAME OF SOMEONE MORE HIGH-PROFILE THAN ME, THEN THEY CAN MOVE ON AND NOT DEAL WITH ME ANYMORE.

GOOD! THEY CAN *HURT* US! LET THEM MOVE!

THEY'RE *SCARED* OF US. THEY KNOW WE'RE DANGEROUS, AND THE SECOND THEY DON'T NEED US, THEY'LL *BURN* US. WE HAVE TO PLAY THIS OUT. LET THEM DEMAND MORE FROM US. GET THEM USED TO *ASKING.*

THE MORE WE DO, THE MORE THEY ASK, THE MORE WE ARE *SLAVES!*

NO. WHEN THEY *RELY* ON US...

...THEN THEY *BELONG* TO US.

I NEED SOMEONE I CAN *RELY* ON FOR THIS, LEE.

WELL, I'M HAPPY YOU THOUGHT OF ME.

I DIDN'T THINK I'D *HEAR* FROM YOU AGAIN.

DON'T BE COY.

YES, YOU DID.

BUT THIS JOB IS *EASY.* NO MONEY EXCHANGE, NO *AMBUSH ALLEY.*

THIS IS *PATRICK HEALY,* A REPORTER FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE.* HE'S BEEN ASKING THE WRONG KINDS OF *QUESTIONS* ABOUT MY ORGANIZATION. THE KIND THAT SUGGESTS HE'S ANGLING FOR A *PULITZER.*

ADAMS, HERE, HAS COMPILED A LITTLE RESEARCH FOR YOU.

PATRIC HEALY

CONVINCE HIM TO FIND A *DIFFERENT STORY.*

YOU WANT ME TO MUSCLE SOME *REPORTER?*

MUSCLE IS *GOOD*, LEE. MUSCLE MEANS *NO KILLING.*

YOU GOTTA CRAWL BEFORE YOU *WALK*, KID. AFTER LAST TIME, YOU'VE GOT SOME *CATCHING UP* TO DO.

NO BODIES IS GOOD, LEE.

WE CAN BE *SCARY*. WE CAN DO THE *SCARY* FACE!

SPEAKING OF LAST TIME...PERHAPS IT'S BEST NOT TO SEND HIM *ALONE*. JUST TO MAKE SURE THINGS DON'T GET OUT OF *HAND*.

WHAT THE HELL IS *THIS* NOW?

HOW IS SENDING *MORE* PEOPLE GOING TO MINIMIZE THE RISKS OF OPERATIONAL FAILURE?

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANY MYSTERIOUS **BODIES** ON THIS ONE.

I WORK BEST ALONE.

YOU WORK FOR **ME**, AND IF YOU WANT TO **CONTINUE**, YOU'LL WORK WITH WHOM I **TELL** YOU.

THMP

MAYBE AUGUSTINE?

AUGUSTINE'S ABOUT AS SCARY AS A **WET SOCK.**

IF YOU WANT **SCARY**, MAYBE--

GARGAN.

DON'T LIKE MAC GARGAN, LEE!

WHAT'S **HAPPENING?**

IT'S **OBVIOUS** WHAT'S HAPPENING.

WE'RE BEING **OUT-MANEUVERED.**

THIS IS BAD, LEE!

WE'RE SCARED! NO FRIENDS!

HAD FRIENDS ONCE. FRIENDS ARE GOOD!

WE'RE NOT ***SCARED*** AND WE DON'T NEED FRIENDS.

THAT GUY ADAMS DOESN'T TRUST US.

AND IF ***HE*** DOESN'T TRUST US, AND ***GARGAN*** CLEARLY DOESN'T TRUST US, I DON'T LIKE OUR ODDS IN THE CAT'S EYES.

AND IF ***SHE*** DOESN'T TRUST US?

LET'S JUST HOPE SHE DOES.

OTHERWISE, EVERY JOB WE DO FOR HER COULD BE AN AMBUSH.

THAT ADAMS #$£@ THINKS I'M HIDING SOMETHING, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT IS. AS LONG AS NOBODY IN CAT'S ORGANIZATION KNOWS ABOUT YOU, I STILL HOLD THE MOST CARDS.

HE STUCK GARGAN ON US TO ***WATCH*** US. SO WE JUST MAKE SURE GARGAN DOESN'T ***SEE*** ANYTHING.

GARGAN IS ***BAD***, LEE. GARGAN IS ***SCORPION.***

GARGAN'S AN ***IDIOT.*** HE'S NOTHING TO--

--WORRY ABOUT.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE **SCARY.**

DIDN'T YOU GET THE **MEMO?**

AND HERE I THOUGHT CALLING HIM A SCORPION WAS A **METAPHOR.**

YOU LOOK **RIDICULOUS** WITH THAT HUGE SUIT IN THIS DINKY HALLWAY.

DID YOU ACTUALLY CLIMB THE **STAIRS** IN THAT THING?

I CLIMBED THE WALL. CAME DOWN FROM THE ROOF.

WHAT DO *YOU* CARE HOW I GOT IN HERE?

VERY BAD, LEE!

NO, WE CAN *WORK* WITH THIS.

JUST ASKIN'. SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE? I CAN GO IN THERE AND COME ON HEAVY. BUT I'LL BE *SLOPPY.*

I WON'T KEEP MYSELF BETWEEN HIM AND THE DOOR. HE'LL THINK HE CAN MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, BUT OUT HERE HE'LL RUN INTO *YOU.*

IT'S THE *PSYCHOLOGY* OF IT. HE'S THREATENED, AND THERE'S *NOWHERE* TO RUN--

IS THIS THAT *RANGER TRAINING* I HEARD ABOUT? YOU *THINK* TOO MUCH.

ANYWAY, THERE AIN'T GONNA *BE* A DOOR.

HOLY $%@$!

MR. HEALY, I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO WRITE A PIECE ABOUT THE BLACK CAT'S CONNECTION TO ***SUPER CRIMINALS.***

FIGURED MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A ***FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW!***

YAAAAA!

LEE! HE'S ***KILLING*** HIM, LEE! HAVE TO ***SAVE*** THE MAN!

CAT TOLD US NOT TO KILL THIS GUY. I DON'T THINK GARGAN WOULD DISOBEY HER.

NOT TO INTERRUPT, BUT OUR BOSS ISN'T INTERESTED IN ANY MORE BODIES. IF YOUR PLAN IS TO MAKE ME ***LOOK*** BAD WITH THIS--

THE PLAN AIN'T TO MAKE YOU LOOK BAD.

THE PLAN IS TO ***KILL*** YOU AND PIN IT ON ***THIS*** IDIOT AFTER I KILL ***HIM.***

WHAT ARE YOU--

YOU STAY HERE, MR. HEALY.

THIS IS **STUPID,** EVEN FOR **YOU,** GARGAN.

WHAT'S THE CAT GONNA **THINK?** THAT A **BUGLE REPORTER** WAS KEEPING A TWELVE-MILLION-DOLLAR **SCORPION TAIL** UNDER HIS BED?

NAW.

I'M GONNA **BEAT** YOU TO DEATH.

CRASH

YOU GOT A **BASEBALL BAT,** RIGHT?

EH.

WE'LL **GET** YOU ONE.

UH...

NO?

LEE! NO!

CALM DOWN. LET HIM DO IT. SLOW MY BREATHING. LET HIM THINK HE'S KILLED ME.

BUT LEE!

NO! PROTECT MY BRAIN. PROTECT MY HEART. WHEN HE THINKS I'M DEAD, HE'LL LEAVE.

AND WE'LL THINK...

...WE'LL THINK OF SOME---

MAN, THAT FELT GOOD.

NOW... YOU, AT LEAST, I CAN MAKE IT QUICK.

PLEASE... DON'T!

NO!

WHAT?

NOOOO MOOOOORE KILLINGG!

WHA-- YOU?!

I KNEW IT!

I KNEW YOU WERE HIDING SOMETHING!

YESSSSS.

AND NOW, YOU'LL DIE.

BWOOOM

NYYARGH!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU *GOT* THAT THING, LEE, BUT I HAD IT *FIRST.*

I KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW TO TICKLE IT.

HANG ON A SEC. DO YOU HEAR THAT?

I THINK SOMETHING CRAZY IS GOING ON NEXT DOOR.

OMIGOD!

GAAARGAN!

SCOTT, ARE YOU INSANE?! LET'S GO!

ONE SECOND!

SHKK

I GOT IT! IT'S UPLOADING!

EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS GONNA SEE THIS!

TO BE CONTINUED...

SYMBIWROTE

ALLISON STOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

OH MAN! Venom and Scorpion embroiled in a battle royale broadcast live for the whole world to see? I'm SURE that'll end well for both of them.

Hello, Symbiotes!

Ven-itor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print from the heart of Marvel HQ in Manhattan, and HOO BOY! Is it an exciting week here in the Spider-Man office. Not only are we sending the final issue of DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY to the printer, we also released the cover to VENOM #6 today, featuring a host who ISN'T LEE PRICE?!

What the heck is going on THERE? By the time this issue reaches your hands, I'm sure you'll have more information...

But enough about all the hubbub up here in the Mighty Marvel offices!

All you Venom fans out there have been writing and writing about the continuing adventures of the best slobbering symbiote in the whole Marvel U, so let's get to your letters!

Hey there, Venom crew! I've just finished reading the first two issues, and I gotta say, I'm intrigued.

One of the things I've been fond of is the characterization of the Venom symbiote itself. When Eddie and Mac had the suits the symbiote didn't really have much of a personality, but ever since the Flash Thompson run, it's growing as a character with its own wants, needs, likes and dislikes.

It's going to be a bit rough to get used to Lee as our favorite sharp-toothed, black-and-white antihero, but I'm willing to stick around to see what Mike types up next.

Keep it up, guys!

Ben N.

Hey, Ben! Thanks so much for your letter and I'm glad you're enjoying the series! Growing the symbiote's voice was a big goal of Mike's when he came aboard for this series. After all, the Venom symbiote is a living creature, and, like us, it responds to stimuli and external forces. When we were first discussing the series, Mike pointed out that, for a time, CONSCIOUSNESS was one of those very forces, and exploring what that means, to both the symbiote and the person to whom it's bonded, was a gamble. Couldn't be more glad to hear that it's paying off in your eyes! Hope we can keep it up!

Dear SymbiWrote,

Just got finished reading issue #2 of VENOM. This is the first time I've truly enjoyed the character since the Eddie Brock days! Lee Price is a very intriguing character. The premise of him being able to control the symbiote and using it to do jobs for the Black Cat is enthralling. It feels fresh but also well-grounded in the Venom/Spidey mythos.

The art is also fantastic. It's so stylish but without getting in its own way; I can still clearly tell what's happening in all the panels. The aesthetic works great with this new Venom design, too. It's a refreshing mix between the classic look and some new touches that make Lee's version unique and distinct. Again, that new/old balance feels spot on.

Lastly, I'm really happy to read a super hero (well, villain) comic book that focuses on thrilling adventures, captivating characters, and intriguing stories. Lately I've been turned off by how partisan, divisive, and preachy so many hero books have gotten. I'm a life-long liberal, so I mostly agree with the messages, but personally I believe moral guidance too great a responsibility for anything other than family, friends, and first-hand life experiences...plus, my social network already has enough to argue about. ;-) So, please keep up this good writing that everyone can enjoy!

Now, this is the second time in my life I've written in to the letters section of a comic book. The first time was in 1991 when I was 10 years old. I wrote to THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN to tell them how much I loved issues #346 and #347 starring, you guessed it, Venom! They didn't print my letter, but I'll never forget the nonsensical and lame sign-off I came up with. It was a thing back then where people would say, "until [something outlandish], make mine Marvel!" So, I'd like to end this letter the same ridiculous way I ended that one.

But before I do, may I remind you that I was 10 and that ASM #347 ends with Venom happily retiring on a tropical island that may have been Hawaii. *shrug* Regardless, best of luck going forward! I hope this chapter of Venom runs for a long, long time! *ahem* And until Venom opens a Hawaiian restaurant downtown, make mine Marvel!

Joseph L., PhD

JOSEPH! It's always great news when we hear from a fan who's coming back into the Marvel fold as a result of one of our books, so let me be the first to welcome you back to the Marvel Family! Really glad to hear that you're enjoying where we're taking this volume of Venom, particularly as you're an old-school Eddie Brock fan. Keep reading! I think you'll like what we've got up our sleeves...

Dear SymbiWrote,

Costa & Sandoval are killing the new Venom series.

I've been a comic reader/fan since I was a kid (10 years old) and have never written in before, but after those first two issues I gotta say, "give me more." The first issue blew me away with moments that felt like a straight throwback to the original battle of wills between Peter and the symbiote. You had me hooked there and now with issue two ending with a standoff, I can't wait to see where this series goes. Two quick questions before I go.

1. Any chance Mac is actually able to keep things under wraps? I would love to see the slow build to an empire, as eluded to in issue two.

2. Since this Venom seems like he's staying on Earth, how long till a run-in with the likes of, say, Kingpin, Punisher or Daredevil?

Y'all killing it!!!

Steve D.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Hey, Steve! Thanks for your letter. LET'S GET TO YOUR QUESTIONS! 1. I guess this issue kind of answers that question for you... Someone's bound to get wise to both Lee and Gargan's plans at this point... 2. KEEP READING! We've got a bunch of exciting Marvel Universe action planned. No immediate plans for Daredevil or characters in his orbit, but some of what we've got in store just might surprise you.

To: VENOM Writers and Artists

I just finished reading VENOM #1 and was surprised at the turn of events that took place. This was a far leap from the end of VENOM: SPACEKNIGHT. I'm excited to see where this is all headed.

The storyline matches the art perfectly. It has kind of a dark and ominous theme. Kind of reminds me of an old miniseries called VENOM: THE HUNGER, where it shows Venom eating another man's brains. I love the new look of Venom! I really like how the white streaks down his arm and hands. I have two questions:

1. Will Eddie Brock be running into Venom anytime in the future or is he too busy chasing Carnage all over the world?

2. I am a couple of issues behind on GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. Did something happen to Flash and the symbiote or will that all play out in future issues?

Joshua R.
Warren, PA

Hey, Joshua! Thanks for your questions. As you know, we here at Marvel HQ are always working on our stories with our writers, working hard to bring you the best comics mags in the biz. VENOM is no exception, and Mike's been working day and night to make sure that loyal fans like you aren't disappointed. Your two questions both tie into Mike's upcoming plans, so you'll have to keep reading for now, but I CAN say that yes, we've got big plans for both Eddie Brock, and to explain what happened to Flash and the symbiote! Really excited for you and all the fans out there to see 'em!

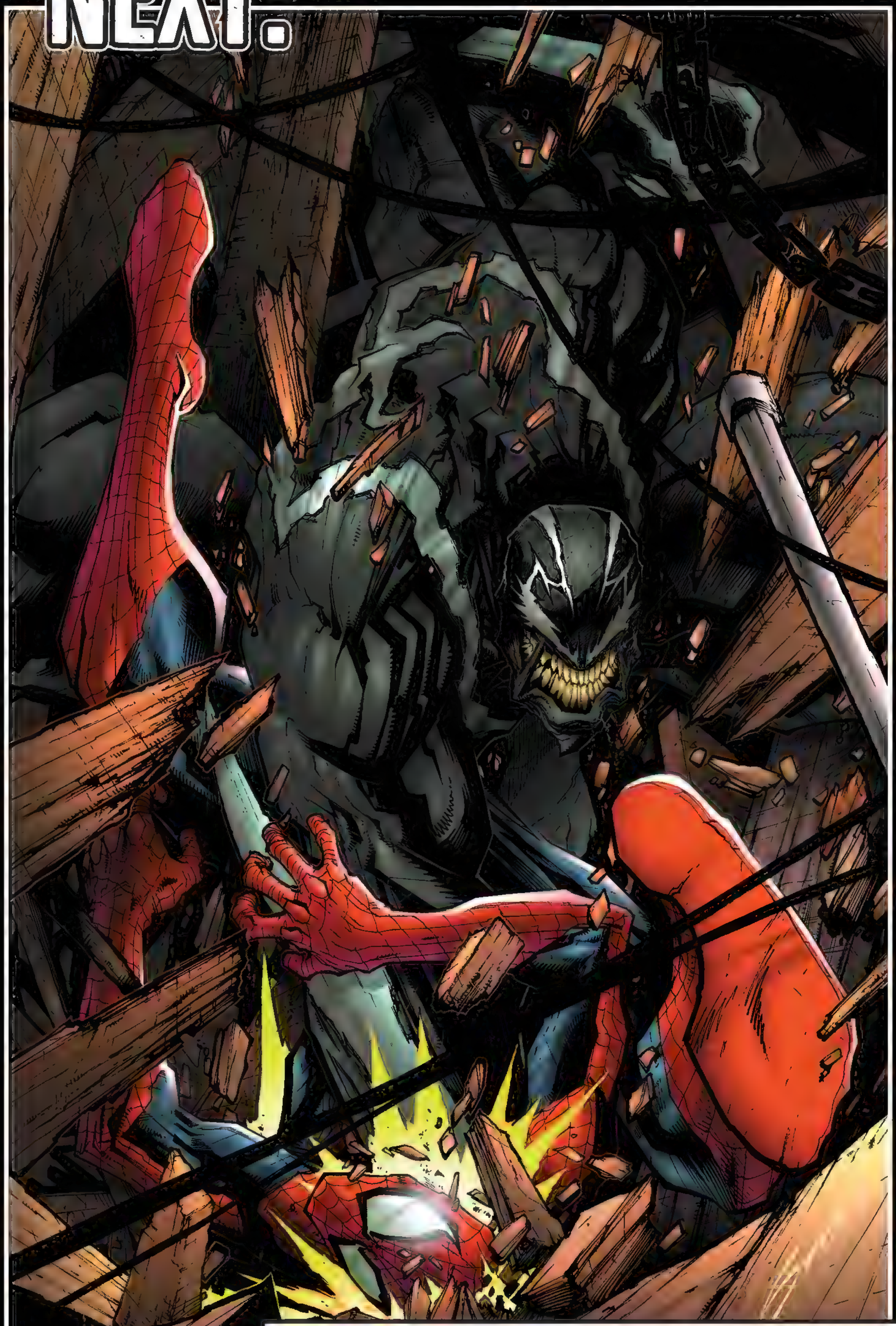
SPEAKING of things you VENOM fans get to see...last month I promised you a peek at one of the biggest projects I've ever worked on here at Marvel – VENOM #150! Now, by the time this comic gets in your hands, we will have released a bit more information about May's upcoming, OVERSIZED Venom anniversary issue, but, in the meantime, I wanted to reward you, the Venom Faithful, with a special, small look at it. It's nothing huge, so don't get your hopes up, but it's a look at the very first page of what's going to be one of the biggest books of the year.

SO! Turn the page. Your EXCLUSIVE sneak peek at VENOM #150 is waiting...

Over and out!

Devin

NEXT:

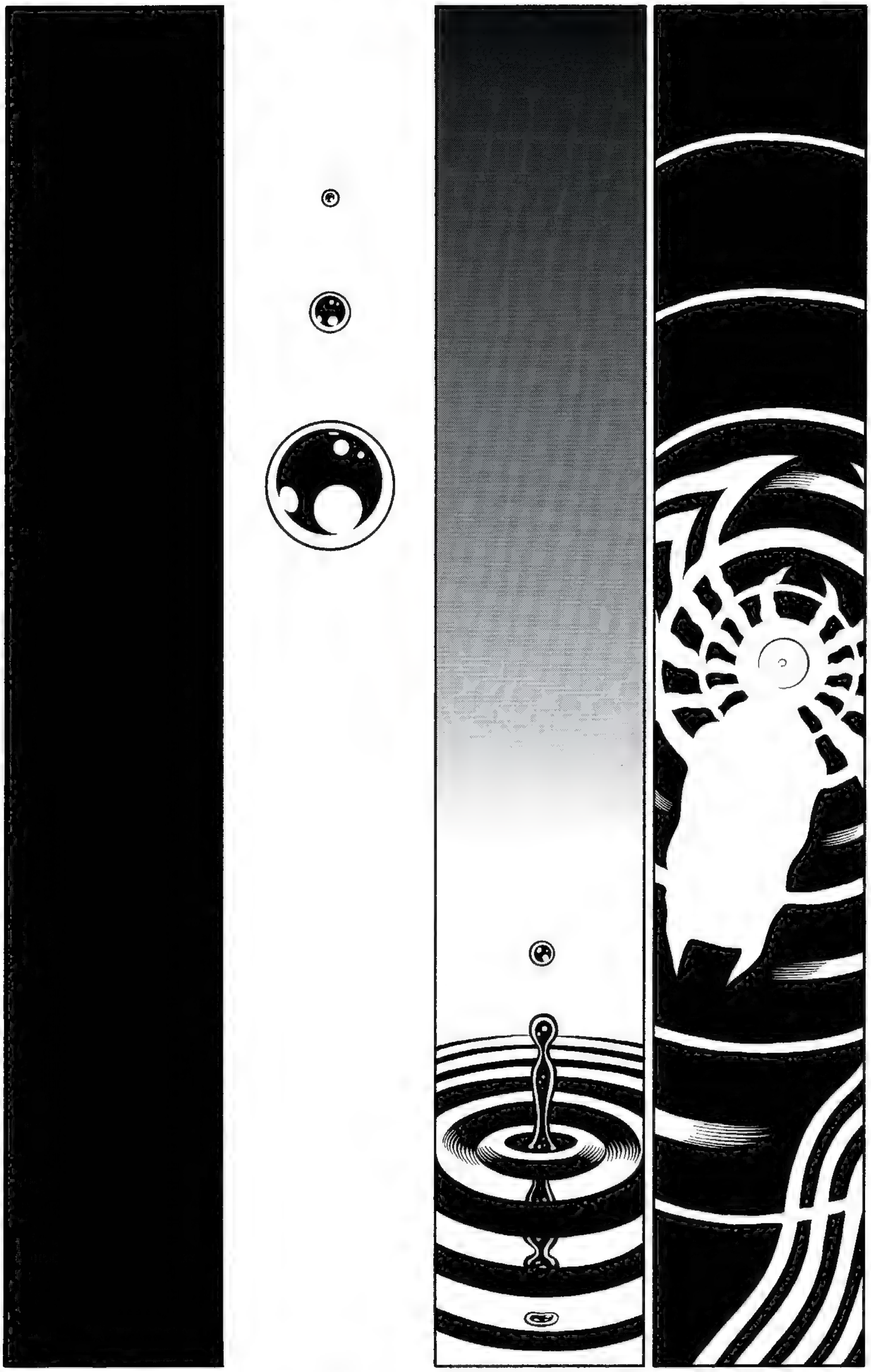


ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

PRESENTING YOUR FIRST LOOK AT

VENOM

#150!



ON SALE MAY 2017!

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#5

COSTA
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YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, IN THE PROCESS.

THE SYMBIOTE, SCARED AND WEAKENED, BONDED WITH LEE PRICE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER. THANKS TO HIS RANGER TRAINING, LEE CAN CONTROL THE SYMBIOTE, AND HAS USED IT TO TRY AND COURT THE FAVOR OF THE BLACK CAT, NEW YORK'S LATEST KINGPIN OF CRIME.

THOUGH HE TRIED TO KEEP THE FACT THAT HE HAS THE SYMBIOTE QUIET, TWO FBI AGENTS HAVE FIGURED OUT LEE'S SECRET AND MADE HIM AN OFFER: HE CAN EITHER WORK FOR THEM AS AN INFORMANT AND FEED THEM INTEL ON NEW YORK'S SUPERHUMANS, OR HE CAN GO TO PRISON.

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, ONE OF BLACK CAT'S LOYAL STOOGES, *THE SCORPION*, DOUBLE-CROSSED LEE AND ATTACKED HIM DURING A ROUTINE JOB. TO SAVE HIMSELF, LEE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRANSFORM INTO *VENOM*--REVEALING HIS SECRET TO THE WORLD!

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL & IBAN COELLO
ARTISTS

DONO SANCHEZ-ALMARA, ISRAEL SILVA, AND ANDRES MOSSA
COLOR ARTISTS

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
COVER ARTIST

ALLISON STOCK
ASST. EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENET

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

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AH, SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN. EVEN WHEN YOU'RE *BAD*, YOU'RE *GOOD*.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART OF THE DAY: CYBER-STALKING ALL MY OLD FRENEMIES FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO SEE HOW MUCH COOLER I AM THAN THEM.

HM. SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR.

RACIST.

PICTURE OF KIDS.

KIDS.

KIDS.

AW! WEDDING PHOTOS! GOOD FOR DAVE!

KIDS.

WAIT A SECOND...

LIVE

YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDING* ME.

I HAVE *GOT* TO STAY OFF SOCIAL MEDIA.

I'LL CRACK YOU OUT OF THAT SUIT AND EAT YOU LIKE AN *OYSTER*, GARGAN.

DIE SCREAMING, GARGAN! DIE--

THWIP

GAK!

NO...

FLASH, YOU'VE GOT SOME *SERIOUS* 'SPLAINING TO DO.

STAY AWAY FROM US!

YOW!

THWIP

"SAVE ANY LIVES TODAY, SPIDEY?"

"OH, YEAH, I SAVED A PSYCHOTIC MURDERER IN A NUCLEAR-POWERED SCORPION SUIT."

"JUST DOING MY PART."

WHAT THE #$%^ DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*

PLEASE, HOLD YOUR APPLAUSE.

CROSSED

UH...

...THANKS.

I WANT THAT SUIT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SPIDER-MAN IS HERE! SPIDER-MAN!

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'RE BEING CRAZY!

SCORPION! STOP!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

WE CAN'T HURT SPIDER-MAN!

EVERYONE OKAY?

GOOD. NOW YOU CAN APPLAUD...

HEY, MAN, DID YOU HAVE TO **TACKLE** US? THESE JEANS WERE **FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS.**

EVERYONE'S A **CRITIC.**

GARGAN, YOU **MANIAC.** WHAT WERE YOU **THINKING?** I--

UH...WHERE'S **VENOM?**

HE **RAN.** SWUNG AWAY ON HIS **WEBS.** YOU COULD HAVE **CHASED** HIM IF YOU WEREN'T SCREWING AROUND.

YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU--

CHING

HANG ON...

OH, COME ON!

DAILY

SPIDER-MAN LETS VENOM AND SCORPION GET AWAY

DAILY BUGLE? I NEED THE METRO DESK.

IT'S PAT HEALY!

YOU KNOW THAT PIECE I'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR THE PAST *TWO MONTHS?*

THE *BLACK CAT* PIECE?

WELL, YOU ARE NEVER GONNA--

ERR...

HANG UP THE PHONE.

WHY DID YOU **BRING** ME HERE?

BECAUSE THE COPS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO YOUR **APARTMENT.**

YOU'RE THE GUY WHO WAS WITH THE **SCORPION!** BUT... HE TRIED TO **KILL** YOU!

HEY, YOU **ARE** OBSERVANT. YOU SHOULD BE A REPORTER.

CAN'T **KILL** THIS MAN, LEE! NOT AFTER ALL **THIS!**

SHUT UP. THIS IS **YOUR** FAULT. IF YOU HADN'T GONE BERSERK WE WOULDN'T BE **IN** THIS MESS.

NOW IT'S UP TO **ME** TO GET US OUT OF IT.

YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE BLACK CAT'S ORGANIZATION FOR **MONTHS.**

TELL ME **EVERYTHING.** STARTING WITH ADAMS' ADDRESS.

STATEN ISLAND.

ALL RIGHT, BABIES. LUNCH-TIME.

HM. MORE SKITTISH THAN USUAL. SOMETHING WRONG?

STATEN ISLAND, ADAMS? HOW POSITIVELY BOURGEOIS.

WELCOME TO MY HOME... LEE.

I SEE YOU'VE SPOKEN TO GARGAN, THEN.

I HAVE. AND BLACK CAT. SO, IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH.

YOU REALLY UNDID A LOT OF WORK I'D PUT INTO GETTING HER TO TRUST ME, ADAMS. DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D SEND THE SCORPION TO KILL ME--

DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO SCREW IT UP.

SO, SMART GUY, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN NOW?

YOU THINK THE CAT'LL JUST **FORGET** THAT IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO SEND GARGAN ALONG WITH ME? THINK SHE'S SO **DENSE** THAT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT YOU MIGHT'VE ORDERED HIM TO TRY AND TAKE ME OUT, TOO?

I'VE LIED TO HER ONCE, AND SHE'S NEVER GOING TO TRUST ME AGAIN. NOW THAT SHE KNOWS I'VE BEEN KEEPING THIS **SYMBIOTE** FROM HER, SHE'LL BE GUNNING FOR ME.

BUT YOU? HER **CONSIGLIERE** UNDERMINING HER, RIGHT UNDER HER NOSE?

IMAGINE WHAT SHE'LL DO TO **YOU.**

DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M **SURE** YOU WERE JUST LOOKING OUT FOR HER BEST INTERESTS. YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME, MAN. YOU SAW ME AS A THREAT TO HER OPERATION--

(SMART MAN, BECAUSE I **WAS.**)

--SO YOU MOVED TO TAKE ME OUT. TOOK IT UPON YOURSELF TO USE ONE OF THE BLACK CAT'S LOYAL AND VERY **EXPENSIVE** SUPERHUMAN HELPERS TO PUT ME DOWN. ALL WHILE KEEPING HER IN THE DARK FOR THE SAKE OF **PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY.**

LIKE I SAID, YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME.

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK **SHE'LL** SEE IT THAT WAY?

S-S-SHE WON'T. SH-SHE KNOWS WH-WHERE MY LOYALTIES LIE.

YOUR MOUTH SAYS ONE THING BUT YOUR STUTTER S-S-S-SAYS A-A-A-AN-N-NOTHER.

GET **WISE,** ADAMS! YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THE LENGTHS THE CAT WILL GO TO HUNT DOWN A RAT.

SO WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

YOU NEED **PROTECTION.**

AND I CAN BRING YOU TO ITS **FRONT DOOR.**

WHY WE *DO* THIS, LEE? DON'T *UNDERSTAND.*

BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY MOVE WE HAVE ***LEFT.*** I WOULD HAVE BEEN ***HAPPY*** TO HAVE KEPT YOU A SECRET INDEFINITELY. ***YOU*** #$%^& THAT UP.

NO WAY I'M GOING OUT THERE INTO THE WILDERNESS, LIVING ON THE LAM, DOING WHATEVER IT IS THOSE SUPER CRIMINALS DO.

YOU TOOK AWAY MY SAFETY OF ***ANONYMITY,*** I'LL TAKE THE SAFETY OF ***POWER.***

IT'S TIME TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS. ADAMS WILL GIVE THE CAT UP TO THOSE FEDS, AND ONCE SHE'S GONE, ***WE'LL*** FILL THE POWER VACUUM.

IF THE FEDS ARE LOOKING FOR A STEADY STREAM OF INTELLIGENCE ABOUT NEW YORK'S SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY, THAT'S ***EXACTLY*** WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM. SIMPLE.

NO, LEE, *THIS.* WHY DO THIS AT ALL? SCHEMING AND CRIMES AND *HURTING PEOPLE?*

I DIDN'T GO LOOKING FOR TONIGHT'S DISASTER. DON'T PUT THIS ON ***ME.*** I DON'T ***LIKE*** WHAT HAPPENED TO--

PEOPLE HURT ***YOU,*** LEE.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME.

YOU SHUT ME UP IN HERE, LEE. IN YOUR *MIND*. LOTS OF OTHER THINGS SHUT UP IN HERE, I SEE.

"YOU HAD FRIENDS, LEE! I'M *LEARNING* THINGS ABOUT YOU."

"I ***HAD*** FRIENDS. AND THEN I LEARNED SOMETHING, TOO: FRIENDS ARE A ***LIABILITY.***

"I ALSO LEARNED THAT, NO MATTER HOW ***POWERFUL*** YOU ARE, ***REAL*** POWER IS IN STAYING ***HIDDEN.*** ATTACKING ***INVISIBLY.*** KEEPING YOUR ENEMIES ***GUESSING.***

"I ***TRIED*** TO TEACH YOU THAT."

LEARNED ***OTHER*** THINGS ABOUT YOU, THOUGH.

THE TIME IN-- ***GRRRKKKK!***

SHUT. UP.

STAY **OUT** OF MY MEMORIES OR I'LL LOCK YOU SOMEWHERE THAT'LL DO **REAL** DAMAGE.

ARE YOU... TALKING TO ME?

BE **QUIET,** ADAMS.

WE'RE ALMOST *THERE.*

HE SENT YOU HERE ALONE *AGAIN,* AGENT COYLE? YOUR PARTNER MUST REALLY NOT LIKE YOU.

YOU SEEN THIS, LEE? YOU'RE ON THE FACT CHANNEL. EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR *SECRET* NOW.

WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HOLD OVER YOU, SO IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN YOU CALLED. IT MADE WAMBAUGH *NERVOUS.* BUT *ME?* I FIGURE YOU COULD KILL US IN OUR BEDS. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CALL A *MEETING* TO DO IT.

SO YOU'RE THE *SMART* ONE.

AND TODAY YOU HIT THE *JACKPOT.*

YOU WANT A MAINLINE TO THE SUPERHUMAN CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD? I'VE GOT YOU THE GUY RUNNING THE SHOW FOR THE *BLACK CAT.*

HE'S GOING TO GIVE YOU THE LOCATION OF STOCKPILES OF CONTRABAND MATERIAL, AND NUMBERED ACCOUNTS THAT *DEFINITIVELY* PROVE THE CAT IS CONNECTED TO THEM.

THEN I AM GOING TO WALK AWAY, AND YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.

YOU'RE CERTAINLY RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. AFTER TONIGHT, I'LL *NEVER* SEE YOU AGAIN.

WHAT'S THIS?

THIS IS MY PET FEDERAL AGENT. DO YOU REALLY THINK THE CAT WOULD ALLOW HERSELF TO BE INVESTIGATED WITHOUT SOMEONE ON HER PAYROLL INVOLVED?

WHAT, YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A COINCIDENCE?

HOW DID YOU THINK GARGAN KNEW TO HAVE *ANTI-SYMBIOTE* TECH?

COYLE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR *PARASITE* I NEEDED.

AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS *SCARED.*

LEE!

INCENDIARY ROUNDS.

BURNING! BURNING!

DON'T RUN! DON'T FIGHT!

PANIC AND WE DIE!

WE'RE ON FIRE--PUT IT OUT.

THIS IS WHY I SUGGESTED THE *OTHER* ROOFTOP.

THE HELICOPTER COULDN'T GET IN CLOSE ENOUGH.

SPLOOSH

TOO MUCH WATER ON THIS ROOF.

JUMP!

WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT DO WE DO?!

WOULD YOU CALM DOWN?!

NYAARGH!

AGENTS DOWN!

DAWS

MOBILIZE, PEOPLE! WE HAVE A CHOPPER DOWN IN A HIGHLY POPULATED CIVILIAN AREA!

WAMBAUGH! WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT A **SYMBIOTE-ENHANCED** SUBJECT IS DOING AT YOUR PARTNER'S *"ROUTINE MEETING"* WITH HIS INFORMANT?

I--FIRST I'M HEARING ABOUT IT, AGENT DAWSON!

THEN MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL. WE HAVE A ***SYMBIOTE TASK FORCE*** FOR SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS. GET ME WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE OVER THERE. I WANT BOOTS ON THE GROUND TEN MINUTES AGO!

I THINK... THAT SQUAD IS MOSTLY DEFUNCT, CHIEF. THERE'S ONLY ONE GUY STILL ACTIVE, AND HE'S STILL TRYING TO RECRUIT A TEAM OF REPLACEMENTS.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF HE'S ONE MAN OR A HUNDRED. IF HE'S GOT THE KIND OF TACTICAL KNOW-HOW WE CLEARLY NEED, YOU GET HIS ASS DOWN HERE!

NO NEED, SPECIAL AGENT DAWSON.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT A SYMBIOTE IS LOOSE IN NEW YORK.

SOMEBODY CARE TO BRING ME UP TO SPEED?

BROCK

YOUR EYES DON'T DECEIVE YOU, READERS!
THIS IS NOT A TRICK!
NOT AN ILLUSION!
NOT A PARALLEL REALITY!
EDDIE BROCK IS BACK?!
DON'T MISS VENOM #6!

NEXT:

ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

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WE'RE BACK!

2016

#6

COSTA
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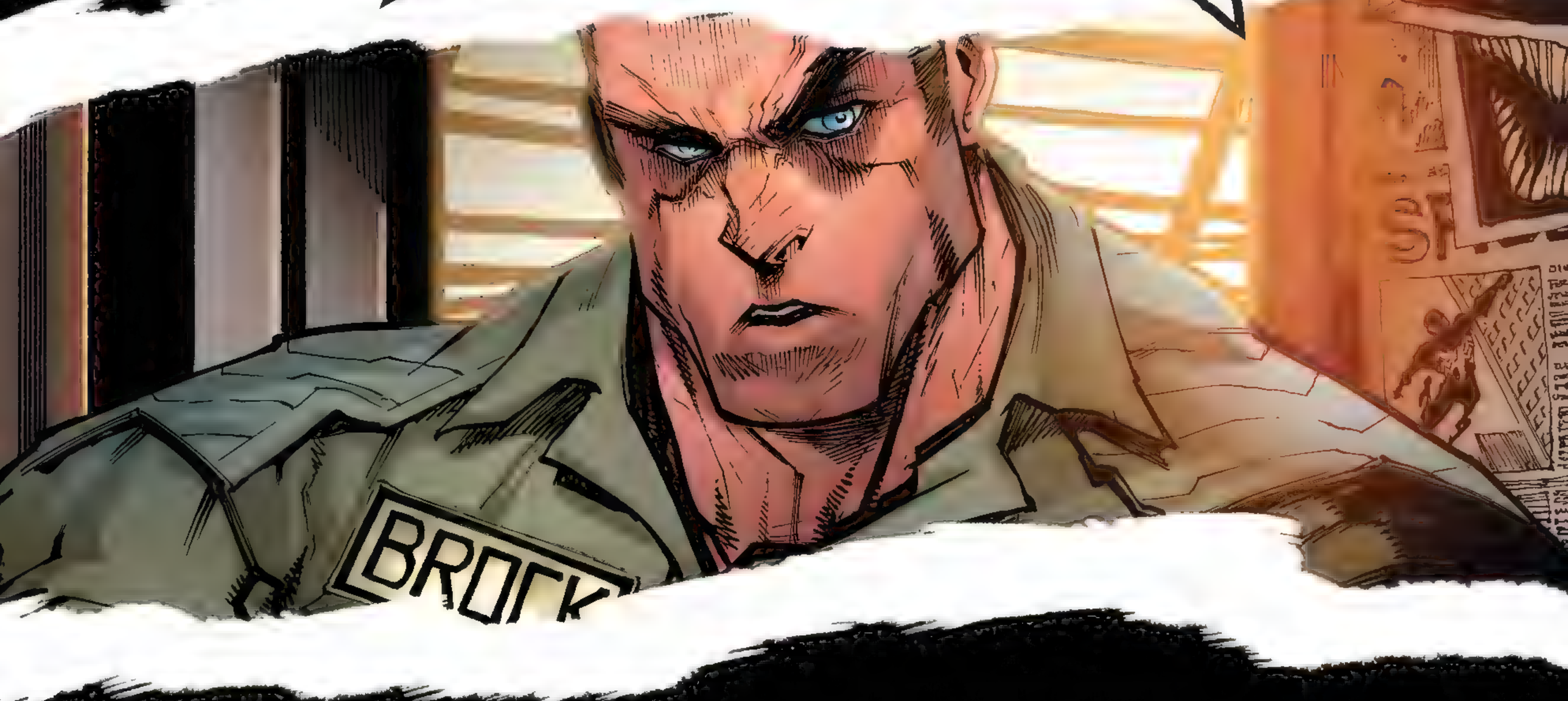
YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



WHEN THE VENOM SYMBIOTE RETURNED TO EARTH IT WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON. IN ITS FRIGHTENED AND WEAKENED STATE, THE CREATURE FOUND A NEW HOST -- A FORMER ARMY RANGER NAMED LEE PRICE.

THANKS TO HIS RANGER TRAINING, LEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO DOMINATE AND CONTROL THE SYMBIOTE, AND HAS USED IT TO COURT THE FAVOR OF BLACK CAT, NEW YORK'S LATEST KINGPIN OF CRIME.

FOR A TIME, HE WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE SYMBIOTE A SECRET, BUT WHEN ONE OF BLACK CAT'S STRONGMEN, MAC GARGAN AKA SCORPION, DOUBLE-CROSSED HIM ON A ROUTINE JOB, THE TRUTH CAME OUT. LEE HAS BEEN ON THE RUN FROM CAT AND HER CREW EVER SINCE.

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, LEE CROSSED PATHS WITH NONE OTHER THAN *THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* AND THE TWO FOUND THEMSELVES EMBROILED IN A FIGHT ACROSS MANHATTAN. NOW, LEE IS TRYING TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, WITH SPIDER-MAN AND THE FBI ON HIS TAIL, INCLUDING THE LEADER OF THE BUREAU'S ANTI-SYMBOTIC TASK FORCE, EDDIE BROCK.

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
ARTIST

DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
COVER ARTIST

DAN MORA [RESURXXION]; TODD MCFARLANE AND RICHARD ISANOVE [REMASTERED]
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ALLISON STOCK
ASST. EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENET

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

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ALL RIGHT, **BROCK.** HERE'S THE SITUATION.

LESS THAN ***TEN MINUTES AGO,*** AN INCIDENT OCCURRED INVOLVING ONE OF MY AGENTS AND A SYMBIOTE-ENHANCED SUBJECT DURING A ROUTINE MEETING WITH AN INFORMANT.

A TACTICAL CHOPPER WAS COMMITTED WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION TO ***THIS*** GRID OF THE ***BRONX.***

THIS IS THE LAST FOOTAGE WE WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE FROM THE ONBOARD CAMERAS BEFORE THEY WENT DARK, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY AGENT AT THE BUREAU WITH ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOW TO STOP THESE DAMN THINGS.

WHAT'S THE STATUS ON THE HELICOPTER?

WE DON'T KNOW. WE LOST OUR EYES ON ITS SYSTEMS THE SAME TIME WE LOST THE CAMERA FEED. WE'VE GOT GROUND UNITS ON-SITE HELPING CLEAR OUT CIVILIANS AND TRYING TO GET A SITREP. A SYMBIOTE CONTAINMENT UNIT IS INBOUND AS WELL.

BUT IF THAT THING IS STILL IN CONTROL OF OUR CHOPPER...

"...THERE'S **NO TELLING** THE DAMAGE IT COULD DO."

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE FLYING ONE OF **THESE** AGAIN.

YOU FLY HELICOPTERS, LEE?

IN THE RANGERS. AND NOT WELL.

BUT IT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WE'LL HEAD UP THE HUDSON AND DITCH IN THE WATER BY--

FLASH? ISSAT YOU IN THERE?

ANY CHANCE I COULD HITCH A RIDE?

NEW PLAN.

WE KILL SPIDER-MAN!

LEE, NO! NO MORE KILLING!

YOW! DEFINITELY NOT FLASH, THEN!

THE VENOM I KNOW WOULD NEVER--

--RISK HURTING INNOCENT PEOPLE!

SO, IT'S TRUE. THE SYMBIOTE IS HERE.

MY SYMBIOTE.

MY DARLING.

WHERE'D HE--

LEE, DON'T!

SHUT UP!

HEH. SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS, AMIRITE?

HSSSS!

AW, MAN. I'M NEVER RIGHT.

GUH!

SIR! SPIDER-MAN HAS ENGAGED THE TARGET! SHOULD WE PROVIDE SUPPORT?

YOU GOT SONICS ON THIS BIRD?

NEGATIVE, AGENT BROCK. BUT BOOTS ON THE GROUND DO.

THE GUNS WILL HAVE TO DO, THEN. WHAT'S THE SITREP ON CONTAINMENT AND CIVILIANS?

"CONTAINMENT UNIT IS SIXTY SECONDS OUT.

"CIVILIANS ARE CONFIRMED CLEAR."

GET ME DOWN THERE...

...AND OPEN FIRE!

NYARGH!

NEED TO GET AWAY, LEE!

DON'T LIKE THIS! TOO MANY PEOPLE! TRYING TO KILL US!

EDDIE BROCK.

SHOULDA KNOWN.

BACK OFF, SPIDER-MAN. I'M WITH THE BUREAU. HAVE BEEN FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW.

WE HAVE EQUIPMENT INBOUND, BUT HE'S NOT MAKING IT EASY. WHOEVER'S IN THAT SUIT IS A *PSYCHOPATH.*

AND IT'S ***NOT*** FLASH THOMPSON.

WE HAVE TO CONTAIN THIS FAST. THAT THING IS *DANGEROUS.*

HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP. AND NEITHER WILL THE BUREAU.

THEY'LL HUNT IT ACROSS THE WHOLE CITY.

YOU HAVE A *PLAN?*

I DO.

YOU WON'T *LIKE* IT.

THESE POLICE ARE *NOTHING.*

WE ONLY NEED TO GET THROUGH THEM, GET TO A *SUBWAY* AND UNDERGROUND...

HEY, CHUCKLES!

I'M NOT *RUNNING* FROM YOU THIS TIME, WEB-SLINGER!

I'LL *KILL* YOU BEFORE I LET YOU CHASE ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

WOULD YOU LISTEN FOR ONE SECOND BEFORE YOU GET TO THE BRAINS-EATING?

I DIDN'T ACTUALLY COME HERE TO *FIGHT.*

I CAME FOR THE *SUIT.*

I WANT IT *BACK.* SO THINGS CAN BE THE WAY THEY *USED* TO BE.

THEN COME AND GET--

WHA--?

GLK!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

SPIDER-MAN IS A *HERO!* A *HERO,* LEE!

CAN'T STAY WITH YOU. TOO MUCH NEEDLESS *DEATH!*

YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE.*

I'M *STRONGER* THAN YOU.

NO!

YOU'VE KEPT ME DOWN IN THE DARK, LEE...BUT THERE ARE *OTHER* THINGS DOWN HERE.

ON THE OUTSIDE IT'S ALL *COLD* AND *ANGER*.

DOWN *HERE* IS *WARM*, WITH *FIRE*.

WITH *FEAR*.

YOU TELL YOURSELF IT'S BECAUSE THEY HURT YOU, BUT I KNOW THE *TRUTH* ABOUT YOU. ABOUT WHY YOU KILLED YOUR PARENTS.

YOU ARE *BROKEN*, LEE. BROKEN, WEAK, AND HATEFUL.

DON'T MAKE ME BREAK YOU *MORE*.

NYYYARGH!

PUT YOUR GUNS DOWN AND KEEP BACK! DON'T GET CLOSE TO IT!

HOPEFULLY SOMETHING *GOOD* IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

SPIDER-MAN'S GIVING US OUR WINDOW, FOLKS. LET'S BE SURE NOT TO MISS IT.

PLEASE...

I JUST DIDN'T WANT THEM TO HURT ME ANYMORE. I DON'T WANT TO BE **ALONE.** PLEASE.

I...

IF YOU LEAVE...

...I'LL KILL YOU!

NO, LEE.

YOU'LL NEVER KILL **ANYONE** AGAIN.

AAAAARRRGGHH!!

FREE!

THAT'S RIGHT. COME ON!

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!

SPIDER-MAN! CAN BE A *HERO* AGAIN!

NO MORE *PRISONER!* NO MORE *DEATH!*

ALMOST THERE, BUDDY! JUST A LIIIITTLE CLOSER. AWAY FROM THE GAS TANKS OF THE CARS...

I'M *DEFINITELY* GOING TO HELL FOR THIS.

NOW!

GET AWAY FROM THE TANK. I'VE **GOT** THIS!

YOU TWO GET YOURSELVES AND BROCK TO SAFETY!

NO! NO, STOP!

DON'T! PLEASE, DON'T!

NOO!

NO! I HATE YOU!

WHY DO THIS?

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!

BEST PART OF BEIN' NYPD-- ARRESTING *BIG, SCARY SUPER VILLAINS.*

THOUGHT YOU WERE PRETTY SMART, BUT IT ALL ENDS THE SAME, DOESN'T IT?

POLICE

NOT SO *TOUGH* WITHOUT YOUR SUIT, HUH?

NOT SO *TOUGH.*

CAN'T LET YOU IN, BROCK. THEY'RE PREPPING IT FOR *TRANSPORT.*

TRANSPORT?

YEAH, THEY'RE TAKING IT *OFF-WORLD* TO SOME SATELLITE BASE. PROBABLY GOING TO ALPHA FLIGHT OR SOMETHING.

DAMN THING IS MORE TROUBLE THAN IT'S *WORTH* IF YOU ASK ME.

C'MON. I JUST WANT TO *SEE* IT.

IF YOU WANTED TO SEE IT, WHY WEREN'T YOU AROUND FOR THE *TAKE-DOWN?*

SPIDER-MAN *MADE* ME FIND COVER. BESIDES, I COULDN'T BE THERE WHEN IT GOT BETRAYED OR IT MIGHT NOT *TRUST* ME.

TRUST YOU? HILARIOUS.

NOBODY AROUND HERE TRUSTS YOU. I DIDN'T THINK YOU *CARED* ABOUT THAT.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T.

GIBBONS?

GIBBONS! YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR POST LIKE THAT!

MRRMF.

OH, @#$^!

WE NEED LOCKDOWN!

WE HAVE A SITUATION!

"VENOM IS LOOSE!"

WE'RE BACK!

TO BE CONTINUED...

SYMBIWROTE

ALLISON STOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

SO LONG, LEE PRICE. HELLO, EDDIE BROCK!

Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! VENOM Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print here at Marvel HQ in the heart of New York.

I couldn't be more excited about the book you hold in your hands right now. Eddie Brock's return to the pages of VENOM has been a long time coming. I'm not speaking metaphorically or exaggerating--your pals in the Spidey-Office have been planning this for over a year, working behind the scenes to make sure all the pieces were on the board and lined up to make the reunion you hold in your hands possible.

As we knew that VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT was going to come to a close, we wanted to bring Venom back home to Earth, and, to me, one of the most interesting things about Venom is the symbiote's relationship with Spider-Man. What's even crazier is that Venom's hosts have all had relationships with the Webbed Wonder, too, and the dynamic between the symbiote and its hosts affect Venom's attitude towards Spider-Man. That's a crazy dynamic, and, as Spidey'll discover in the coming months, it might spell trouble...

And, YES! Before you even ask, we've got big plans for Flash Thompson, Anti-Venom, Carnage, the whole gang! So, keep reading, True Believers! Go to your comic shops and tell 'em you want the best, and that the best is VENOM!

All right, enough chatter. The mailbag's bursting, so let's get to your letters!

Dear SymbiWrote,

I just finished reading the fourth issue of VENOM and it was without a doubt the best one yet. Up until this point Lee has intrigued me as a character, but in this issue my investment in him really started to pay off. I am connecting with his strife in a way I wasn't prior to this installment and finally rooting for him to succeed. The writer and artist have done a fabulous job, every panel is gripping and beautiful. Thanks to everyone involved for a fantastic series and you all deserve a lot of praise! I can't wait for the next issue!

Tyler B.
Prescott, AZ

Dear Team Venom,

I've been a Venomaniac (a symbiote/Venom fan) for nearly two decades. I was first exposed to Venom and the symbiotes, like many from my generation, through SPIDER-MAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES. Though I missed out on regularly collecting any Eddie Brock/Venom series as they were published, I became a regular Venom subscriber at the very start of Flash Thompson's run as Agent Venom.

I've liked every Venom host, from the original, Eddie, to poor Angelo Fortunato and Flash--I even like Mac Gargan! If anyone is familiar with The Venom Site's podcast, *We Are Venomaniacs!*, of which I am a host, they know I and my co-hosts have had little love for Venom's most recent host, Lee Price. So when Marvel announced that Eddie would be returning as the host of Venom, I was immensely relieved and only slightly melancholic.

Eddie is my favorite fictional character of all time. That's no secret--I wear it as a badge of geek honor. I've loved his oft-misunderstood character progression from the host of Venom to cancer patient, and to becoming and losing Anti-Venom. He's had some great character growth that most people miss when they look at him. When he became the new Toxin host, I was a little disheartened by the regression in that progress; he was devolving back to his Lethal Protector ways. I loved his Lethal Protector days and firmly believe they were some of his best as Venom, but the way he acted as Toxin felt like backpedaling in characterization.

I also believe that Eddie was at his prime in characterization as Anti-Venom. He was finally working toward a better future for himself. He was slowly becoming the hero he always imagined himself to be as Venom. While he regressed a bit on that forward progression as Toxin, he had a breakthrough recently under Gerry Conway's hand in CARNAGE #15 that gave me a glimmer of hope (props to Conway and co. for a great run on CARNAGE!). While I still lament that Eddie isn't going to be Anti-Venom again, I hope that as Venom once more, we'll see him in a better state than he was when he was Venom 13 years ago and during his Lethal Protector days. I hope Mike Costa and co. bring Eddie-Venom back as a "Lethal Protector PLUS." (Wherever Costa and co. go with him, I'll just be glad we no longer have Lee in control of the symbiote!)

Sincerely,
Orion "OrionSTARBOY" Petitclerc,
A Lifelong Venomaniac

Hi, Spidey Office,

I hope this letter appears in Eddie's Clubhouse! Are we doing Eddie's Clubhouse again? Well, either way, I hope this reaches the dudes making the Venom series. It kicks butt. That poor symbiote can't catch a break, the second it's all heroic, some sociopath comes along and makes it do bad stuff. When it was announced online that Eddie Brock was returning to his position as the host of Venom, I symbiote screeched. Well, I screamed like a little girl actually, but...point is, I am excited. Cheers on the big #150, can't wait to read it!

- A symbiote fan named Jesse

Dear SymbiWrote,

Costa & Sandoval are killing the new VENOM series.

I've been a comic reader/fan since I was a kid (10 years old) and have never written in before, but after those first two issues I gotta say, "give me more." The first issue blew me away with moments that felt like a straight throwback to the original battle of wills between Peter and the symbiote. You had me hooked there and now with issue two ending with a standoff, I can't wait to see where this series goes. Two quick questions before I go.

1. Any chance Mac is actually able to keep things under wraps? I would love to see the slow build to an empire, as eluded to in issue two.

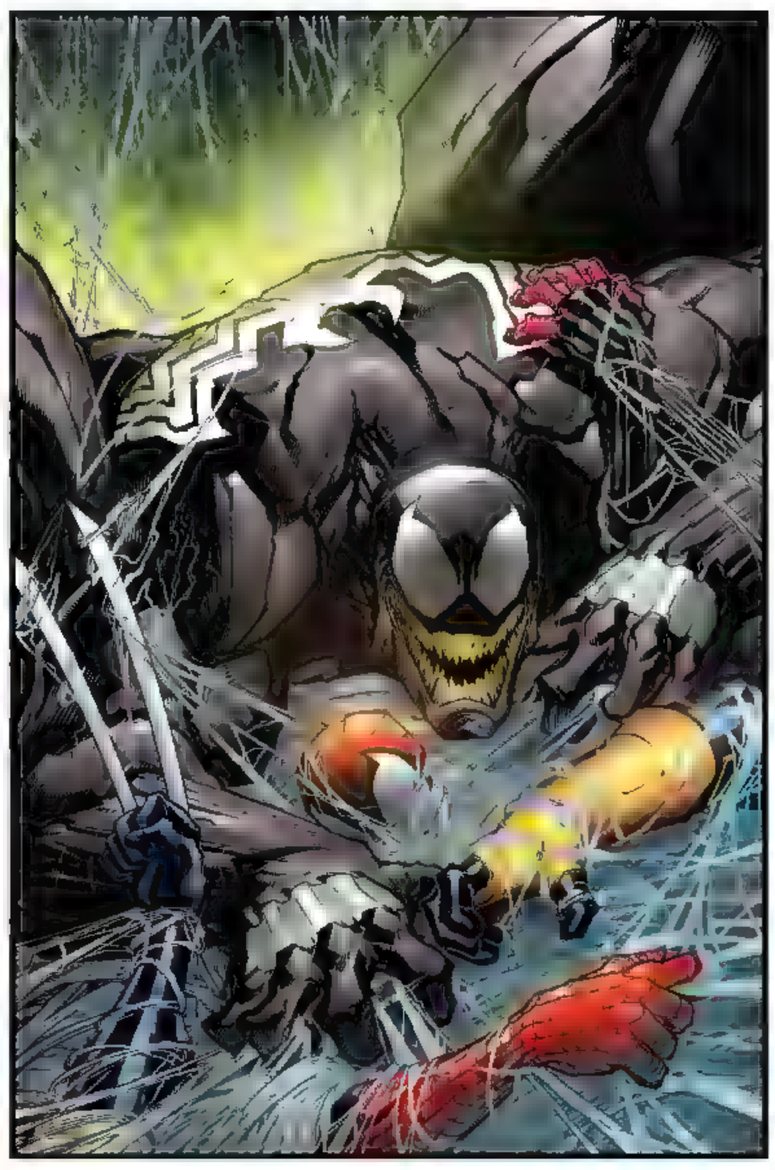
2. Since this Venom seems like he's staying on Earth, how long till a run-in with the likes of, say, Kingpin, Punisher or Daredevil?

Y'all are killing it!!!

Steve D.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

All right, Web-Heads! That's all the space we've got this month, but be back in 30 when we celebrate a most momentous, monstrous, and monumental milestone--

VENOM #150!



E PLURIBUS VENOM!
Devin
@edevinlewis

DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S **VENOM** #150!

ON SALE MAY 2017!

#1 VARIANT BY **RICK LEONARDI** & **RICHARD ISANOVE**

#1 VARIANT BY **RON LIM**
& **ANDREW CROSSLEY**

#1 REMASTERED VARIANT
BY **TODD McFARLANE**
& **RICHARD ISANOVE**

#1 HIP-HOP VARIANT BY **BILL SIENKIEWICZ**

#1 ACTION FIGURE VARIANT
BY **JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER**

#2 VARIANT BY **TRADD MOORE**

#3 VARIANT BY **J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & PETER STEIGERWALD**

#4 CORNER BOX VARIANT BY **JOE JUSKO**

#5 VARIANT BY **CLAYTON CRAIN**

#6 REMASTERED VARIANT
BY **TODD McFARLANE** & **RICHARD ISANOVE**

VENOM IS BACK IN HIS CLASSIC FORM, AND DEADLIER THAN EVER!

THE SYMBIOTE YOU KNOW and love has returned to New York City. No more "Agent of the Cosmos." No more "Lethal Protector." No more "Space Knight." It's time for a new Venom, and it's great to be bad. But now that Venom is back on Earth, just who has bonded with him – and turned him back into a fanged, slathering monster? As the symbiote returns to its old ways, sink your teeth into the deadliest Venom story yet! One that will draw old friends – like Mac Gargan, the Scorpion! And a certain other former host of the Venom symbiote, known for web-slinging, wall-crawling and wisecracking! That's right: It's Venom vs. Spider-Man like never before!

COLLECTING ***VENOM (2016) #1-6*** – BY MIKE COSTA, GERARDO SANDOVAL, IBAN COELLO, JUANAN RAMÍREZ, VICTOR OLAZABA, DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA, ISRAEL SILVA AND ANDRES MOSSA.

T+